















# AMERICANISMS

Old AND New.

UNIFORM WITH  
"AMERICANISMS—OLD & NEW."

**Family Mottoes;** Their Origin and  
Meaning.

*[In preparation, and may be ordered forthwith.]*

**Colonialisms;** A Dictionary of Modern  
Words, Phrases, and Colloquialisms  
peculiar to the British Colonies.

*[To follow.]*

**Proverbs & Proverbial Sayings;**

A Comparative Study of the proverbs of  
all Nations.

*[To follow.]*



# AMERICANISMS—Old & New.

A DICTIONARY OF

## Words, Phrases <sup>AND</sup> Colloquialisms

PECULIAR TO THE

UNITED STATES, BRITISH AMERICA,

THE WEST INDIES, &c., &c.,

THEIR

## DERIVATION, MEANING AND APPLICATION,

TOGETHER WITH

NUMEROUS ANECDOTAL, HISTORICAL, EXPLANATORY, AND  
FOLK-LORE NOTES.

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# Americanisms—Old and New

OR,

## THE ENGLISH OF THE NEW WORLD.



IF all spoken tongues the English language is, perhaps, alone destined to occupy a predominant place among the peoples of the earth. Arguing from the past to the present, and from the present to the future, it seems certain that, in another hundred years, no less than one thousand millions of people will, at the present rate of increase, be speaking the English language—a number far in excess of any other nationality. Rich in metaphor, full of vitality and creative vigor—as it has proved itself—with untold possibilities of adaptation to the needs and genius of the age, it already stands unique in many respects, and forms a medium of communication to the like of which no other spoken tongue can show an analogy.

Unquestionably its present strength and future potency lie in its adaptability and capacity for expansion. To take the last three hundred years alone, the tendency of our Mother tongue to reach out, under varying surroundings, to new and fresh combinations of form has been very marked. One fact stands out in bold relief, viz., that from the earliest times

the English language has been undergoing a kind of fermentation. With new environments the speech of a people at once begins to change; and new needs, influences, and surroundings, contribute largely to the enrichment of a vernacular. Certain words become obsolete, new words are introduced, and, on the other hand, many words come to be employed in a different manner. A most striking illustration of this tendency in language to change its form is the fact that the ancient Scandinavian or Old Norse, once the common speech of Iceland, Denmark, Sweden, and Norway, now exists entire in none of those countries.

In England, with its tight grip upon the past, this process of enlargement has not attained the same dimensions as elsewhere. Yet even in the Mother Country the common speech has changed to such an extent that, to quote one example only, the English of Spencer, Shakespeare, and Marlowe, is not the vernacular of to-day, and in the original these writers require a glossary to render them intelligible.

Far more strongly marked, however, is the divergence which exists between the Queen's English and the English of the New World—variations popularly known and described as "Americanisms." These, in the main, have long been a bugbear to purists, the despair of etymologists, and an unfailing source of wonder, amusement, and, in many respects, a puzzle to the general reader. To the student of comparative philology, however, a large number of these words, phrases, and colloquialisms which, at first sight, seem novel, uncouth, and obscure, are, when closely scrutinised, found to possess a parentage that cannot be questioned, as far as standard usage and authority are concerned. Moreover, much of what remains, not so sanctioned, is discovered to be capable of reduction to some sort of law and orderly sequence.



Strictly speaking, an "Americanism" may be defined as a word or phrase, old or new, employed by general and respectable usage in America in a way not sanctioned by the best standards of the English language. As a matter of fact, however, the term has come to possess a wider meaning; and it is now applied not only to words and phrases which can be so described, but also to the new and legitimately born words adapted to the general needs and usages, to the survivals of an older form of English than that now current in the Mother Country, and to the racy, pungent vernacular of Western life.

Hitherto, this divergence in speech has been of little moment, except to the curiously inclined in matters philological. Latterly, however, for good or ill, we have been brought face to face with what has been grandiloquently called "The Great American Language" oftentimes in its baldest form, and on its most repulsive side. The works, also, of the popular exponents of "American humor," itself an article as distinct in type as is the American character, have made the English people familiar with transatlantic words, phrases, turns of expression, and construction, most of which, strange of sound and quaint in form, are altogether incomprehensible. Their influence is daily gaining ground—books in shoals, journals by the score, and allusions without stint, are multiplying on every hand. American newspapers, too, humorous and otherwise, circulate in England by hundreds of thousands weekly—all this and a good deal else is doing its work in popularising American peculiarities of speech and diction to an extent which, a few years since, would have been deemed incredible. Even our own newspapers, hitherto regarded as models of correct literary style, are many of them following in their wake; and, both in matter and phraseology, are lending countenance to what at first sight appears a monstrously crude and almost imbecile jargon; while

others, fearful of a direct plunge, modestly introduce the uncouth bantlings with a saving clause. The phrase, "as the Americans say," might in some cases be ordered from the type-foundry as a logotype, so frequently does it do introduction duty.

Such is the beginning; who can tell what the end will be; or how far American influence will modify the noble English language? Not that such modification and enlargement are to be feared *per se*. Already history records five periods—Early and Late Anglo-Saxon, and Old, Middle, and Modern English—and a careful study of the situation seems to indicate that we are on the threshold of a sixth period; that even our Mother tongue, like the rest of the social fabric, is again passing through a period of transition.

Danger, however, does not lie in change, but rather in inanition. Purists may object, and cry out in alarm concerning sacrilegious innovation, but, on going to the root of the matter, this tendency is found to be not altogether void of satisfaction when regarded as indicative of the vitality and creative vigor still enshrined in our speech. Language, like everything else, is progressive; there is no spoken tongue a thousand years old. Five times has the external form of the language been changed; and, not to go very far back, the stately, rounded, yet pedantic periods of Addison, Steele, and Johnson, have been exchanged for a more pungent, racy, forcible style—one more in accord with the genius of the age. The component parts of the language may, therefore, again be expected to undergo a similar change and revision.

This tendency to transition is doubtless at the root of the marvellously vigorous, and increasing growth of slang in our own midst of late years. Broadly viewing slang as a possible element of the grammar of the future, and grammar as accepted slang, this



fact is of itself significant; and the same process, under different conditions, is going on in the future mighty Commonwealth of the Southern Seas.

It is, however, when we come to consider the influence which American speech and literature is likely to have increasingly upon the English language, that we are brought in contact with considerations calculated to afford serious food for thought.

At the onset one fact above all others stares us in the face. It is the almost certain overwhelming preponderance which Americans, as a nation, will, of necessity, have in the counsels of the Anglo-Saxon race in the very near future. At the close of the present century they will, in all probability, number close upon a hundred millions, as against a possible forty to forty-five millions of English subjects—at least two to one. What will be the result? Even under the most adverse circumstances one cannot doubt that a vast extension of American influence as a factor in the life and thought of Anglo-Saxon peoples will ensue. This will probably extend in every direction—to politics, to social questions, and to all the arts and sciences. How far, therefore, is our heritage in the English language likely to be affected thereby? The subject is a large one, and, moreover, too speculative at the moment to receive a direct answer. The present work will furnish some data as to how far American-English already differs from the vernacular of the Mother Country.

Roughly speaking, Americanisms may be divided into several broad and distinct classes:—

#### I. WORDS AND PHRASES OF PURELY AMERICAN DERIVATION.

Embracing words originating in—

- |                                |                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| a. Indian and Aboriginal Life. | d. Politics.                  |
| b. Pioneer and Frontier Life.  | e. Trade of all kinds.        |
| c. The Church.                 | f. Travel, Afloat and Ashore. |

2. WORDS BROUGHT BY COLONISTS, including—
 

<i>a.</i> The German Element.	<i>d.</i> The Dutch.
<i>b.</i> The French.	<i>e.</i> The Negro.
<i>c.</i> The Spanish.	<i>f.</i> The Chinese.
3. NAMES OF AMERICAN THINGS, embracing—
 

<i>a.</i> Natural Products.	<i>b.</i> Manufactured Articles.
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4. PERVERTED ENGLISH WORDS.
5. OBSOLETE ENGLISH WORDS still in general use in America.
6. ENGLISH WORDS, American by Inflection and Modification.
7. ODD AND QUAIN'T POPULAR PHRASES, PROVERBS, VULGARISMS, AND COLLOQUIALISMS, CANT AND SLANG.
8. INDIVIDUALISMS.
9. DOUBTFUL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Concerning some of these classes, a few words of explanation may not be unacceptable to the general reader.

It would have been strange indeed had the Red Man failed to leave the most distinct impress upon the life and surroundings of the American nation. This expectation is fully borne out by facts. Not alone in the names of localities, of plants and animals indigenous to the soil, and of preparations of food, but in metaphors and similes drawn from savage life and customs are found survivals, all replete with memories of the aborigines. These for the most part are sad and bitter, because born of the long and relentless struggle which has gone on between the two races ever since the white man first set foot on American soil.

Within the memory of many living persons Indian tribes roamed over the greater part of the North American continent, virtually its masters. They hunted the buffalo, countless herds

of which swarmed on the prairies of the West, practically without restraint. Step by step, however, they and their main means of subsistence have been driven farther and farther afield, until now the buffalo is almost as extinct as the dodo; and the Red Man also seems doomed to as certain an extinction. Reduced in numbers well-nigh to vanishing point, deprived of the chase (their chief support), unable in the "reservations" to which they are relegated to adapt themselves to the new order of things, the remnants of the aboriginal tribes are, by contracting the white man's vices, fast hastening the day when they will only be remembered as a tradition of the past. Still, traces of their having once possessed the land will remain. Many of the most notable aboriginal names still hold, and will doubtless retain a place in the popular speech. Among these geographical expressions stand first, not a few of the names of states, rivers, and mountains bearing their ancient Indian appellations. The designations of plants, animals, and preparations of food come next; but in all probability the influence of the Red Man on the vernacular will longest survive in the colloquialisms of everyday life. Some of these—as, for example, "burying the hatchet," "going on the warpath," "smoking the pipe of peace," and similarly expressive imagery—have established themselves wherever English is spoken.

To the early colonist, however, such colloquialisms as these were fraught with a meaning the full import of which is little realised at the present day. Not less suggestively expressive, too, was and is the everyday speech of the pioneers, trappers, and plainsmen of the once "Wild" and always "Great West." These have impressed the stamp of their life in a remarkable degree, and no less distinctive a manner on what Mark Twain aptly calls "the vigorous vernacular." Vigorous it undoubtedly is; often coarse; sometimes cynically brutal too; yet always



sententious, full of pith and point—the whole indicative of the unceasing activity of life in the backwoods and on the prairies. It is racy withal, and overflowing with wit and humor—of a kind. In the West, nature is young and fresh; it is formed on a larger mould than obtains elsewhere. All things being free, is it surprising that speech should be as unfettered, or that at times it should even, like nature itself, burst all ordinary bounds? The life is rough; the work is hard—a continual struggle with the forces of nature, and the vernacular, but reflects the life and work. Repulsive and unlovely such speech may be, nay is; yet all careful students of the subject must freely concede that it is but a partial aspect of American life. Indeed, though colloquialisms of the kind not unnaturally, under the circumstances, constitute what in England are typically known as Americanisms, the present work will show how, in reality, they form but a very small proportion of the words and expressions properly so named. In respect to colloquialisms of purely American origin, it must be remembered that new needs, influences, and surroundings have contributed, and are still contributing largely to the introduction of fresh, oftentimes quaint, sometimes odd, and always forcible forms of expression. This tendency has not been confined to any single department of life and thought; “all sorts and conditions of men,” indeed, have had their share in this enlargement of the spoken speech—and besides the pioneer in the wilds of the West, the politician in the Senate, the spiritual pastors of the people, in pulpit and on platform, and the trader both afloat and ashore, have had their due share in these additions to “the written word.”

Scarcely less marked are the terms and phrases introduced by the heterogeneous multitudes from every European state, who have, during the past two hundred years, sought a new home in the “Land of the West.” It is not a little curious

that the Anglo-Saxon race of to-day, itself the mixed progeny of many different nationalities, should again become, in the West and in the Southern Hemisphere, subjected to the incursion, and subsequent amalgamation with themselves, of motley hordes of people of more than one alien stock. What the result will be it is difficult to say. Already the American type is a distinct one; it stands by itself unique in many respects, and is by no means wanting in the most desirable racial characteristics of the older types. All these people, whether of German, French, Spanish, or Dutch descent, have each and all left their mark on the common speech; and with these must be included the negro and the Chinaman.

The rare ingenuity and versatility of the American mind, and the enormous strides witnessed during the last half-century in the arts, sciences, and manufactures have also their most natural outlets in modifications of, and additions to the vernacular.

Another important group—perverted and obsolete English words—is also largely responsible for such variation as exists in the speech of the two countries; indeed, these are by far the most fruitful source of turns of expression which we in England usually attribute to transatlantic origin. As a matter of fact, many so-called Americanisms are simply good Old English words which have dropped out of use in the Mother Country. Many causes have conduced to their retention across the water. Let only a thought be given to the subject, and it can hardly be a matter for surprise that words and expressions once current, but now disused here, are still in vogue there. Indeed, the marvel is not that the divergence is so great, but rather that, comparatively, it is so small. Every factor in the case would seem to have made for diversity rather than uniformity; and yet, in spite of a

violent racial parturition, followed by decades of animosity and hate, a separation one from the other by thousands of leagues, the incursion of hordes of immigrants of every nation, and kindred, and tongue, all bringing their quota of new sounds, idioms, and idiosyncracies into the common language—yet, in spite of all this, the language of the Older England of the Seas and the Newer England of the West is essentially the same. Such a fact is assuredly a marvel.

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This volume is the first on the subject ever published on this side of the Atlantic, and it will be found to contain many authentic examples not included in any other authority whatsoever. I have taken every care to ensure accuracy, and have regarded it as essential to completeness to give the dates of references and quotations. The numerous illustrative extracts present a bird's eye view of American wit and humor and the multifarious aspects of transatlantic life, such as cannot fail, I think, to interest the general reader.

In compiling this Dictionary of Americanisms, I have followed, as closely as circumstances would permit, the lines of the scheme given on a previous page. I found, however, that certain modifications of my original plan were necessary, the most important of which is that each section of my subject is dealt with in its proper place in the body of the work. For example, the reader will find American dialects such as the Chinook Jargon, the Pennsylvania Dutch, also Peculiarities of Pronunciation, Orthography, Names, Nicknames and Sobriquets, etc., so treated.

In reference to what is throughout this work classified as "Cant," it is necessary to explain that by this is meant the language peculiar to thieves and their associates. A comparative study of American and Old English cant fully exemplifies



the fact of "survival" in this as in the more legitimate paths of philology.

Finally, I claim no merit for originality. I have made use of whatever material came to my hands; and, though in some cases I have been able to acknowledge in the text the source of my information, frequently no such course was possible, for, besides personal knowledge, my sources of information have been manifold. Many examples given as Americanisms by previous writers I have rejected, upon what I considered sufficient grounds, as having no legitimate claim to insertion. I append a list of authorities, and to those marked with an asterisk I wish specially to acknowledge my indebtedness.





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#### NO. 1 AND NO MISTAKE.

—Though *A 1* is not strictly an Americanism, some of its variants come within the category; as, for example, *A No. 1*, and its intensified form *A No. 1*, and *no mistake*. The origin of the phrase is well known—the use of the mark at Lloyd's to signify that a vessel is ranked in the first class as regards hull, fittings, and stores has led to the expression being employed to denote excellence in men and things generally.

In due time the answer came back. The broker's standing in his native city was *A NO. 1 AND NO MISTAKE*, and all the horses, houses, and the rest were tangible, taxable properties. He proposed—she accepted him.—*Texas Siftings*, September 15, 1883.

'You haven't got any first-class *A NO. 1* good apples, have you?' asked a would-be customer of his grocer. 'No, I haven't. I make it a rule never to keep any first-class *A NO. 1* goods of any kind.' 'Well, that's a queer way to do business.' 'It isn't half so queer a way to do business as it is to tell a man what he hasn't got and then ask him all about it.' 'Send over a peck of the best apples you have.'—*Hartford Post*.

**AARON'S BAND.**—A Masonic degree, fabricated by Joseph Cerneau at New York, and conferred by an independent body. It was censured and suppressed by the Royal Arch Chapter of New York State in 1825.—*See CERNEAN RITE*.

**ABBREVIATIONS.**—Americans, as a rule, employ *abbreviations* to an extent

unknown in Europe. Life, they say, is short and the pace is quick; brevity, therefore, is not only the soul of wit, but the essence of business capacity as well. This trait of the American character is discernible in every department of the national life and thought—even slang being curtailed at times, as in *B.T.I.* (a big thing on ice) and *P.D.Q.*, an injunction more forcible than polite, *et multis aliis*. The following are the principal abbreviations in use in the United States, other than those common to both England and America. The list is given in alphabetical order, and the figure in parentheses after each example refer it to one or other of the following classes.

1. THE GOVERNMENT, ARMY AND NAVY.
2. STATUTORY AND LEGAL.
3. GEOGRAPHICAL.
4. SCIENTIFIC, LITERARY, AND MEDICAL.
5. BUSINESS, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.
6. SOCIETIES AND THEIR OFFICERS.
7. RELIGIOUS.

Abb. (2) Abbott's U.S. Circuit and District Court Reports.—A.B.C.F.M. (7) American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.—A.B.H.M.S. (7) American Baptist Home Missionary Society.—A.B.M.U. (7) American Baptist Missionary Union.—A.B.P.S. (7) American Baptist Publication Society.—A.B.S. (7) American Bible Society.—A.C.A. (7) American Congregational Association.—Acad. Nat. Sci. (4) Academy of Natural Sciences.—A.C.U. (7) American Congregational Union.—A.F.A.M. (6) Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.—A.F.B.S. (7) American and Foreign Bible Society.—

A.F.C.U. (7) American and Foreign Christian Union.—A.H.M.S. (7) American Home Missionary Society.—Agl. Dept. (1) Department of Agriculture.—Agt. (5) Agent.—Ala. (3) Alabama.—Alb. (3) Albany.—A.M.A. (7) American Missionary Association.—Amer. Acad. (4) American Academy.—Amer. Ass. Adv. Sci. (4) American Association for the Advancement of Science.—Amer. Phil. Soc. (4) American Philosophical Society.—Ann. (4) *Annales*, *Annals*.—A.P. (7) Associate Presbyterian.—A.P.A. (6) American Protestant Association.—Ari. or Ariz. (3) Arizona.—Ark. (3) Arkansas.—A.Q.M. (1) Assistant Quartermaster.—A.Q.M.G. (1) Assistant Quartermaster-General.—A.R.P. (7) Associate Reformed Presbyterian.—A.S.S.U. (7) American Sunday School Union.—A.T.S. (7) American Tract Society.—A.V. (7) Authorized Version.—A.Y.M. (6) Ancient York Masons.—Balt. or Balto. (3) Baltimore.—Bbl. or bbls. (5) barrel, barrels.—Bdls. (5) bundles.—Bds. (5) bonds.—Biss (2) Bissel's Circuit Court Reports.—Bk. (5) bark—a vessel.—Blatch. (2) Blatchford's Circuit Court Reports.—Bls. (5) bales.—Bost. (3) Boston.—Br. (5) brig.—Bus. (5) bushel, bushels.—Bx., bxs. (5) box, boxes.—C. or Cels. (4) Celsius' scale for the thermometer.—C., cts. (5) cent, cents—money.—Cal. (3) California.—Card. (7) Cardinal.—Ches. (3) Chesapeake.—Chic. (3) Chicago.—Cin. (3) Cincinnati.—C.J. (2) Chief Justice.—Ch. Clk. (1) Chief Clerk.—Clk. (2) Clerk.—C.M. (7) *Congregatio Missionum* (Lazarist Fathers).—Coad. (7) Coadjutor.—C.O.D. (5) Collect (or Cash) on Delivery.—Colo. (3) Colorado.—Com. (1) Commodore.—Com. & Nav. (1) Commerce and Navigation.—Cong. (1) Congress.—Conn. or Ct. (5) Connecticut.—C. P. or C. Pass. (7) *Congregatio Passionis* (Passionist Father).—C.P.S. (7) Congregational Publishing Society.—Cs. (5) Cases.—C.S.S.R. (7) *Congregatio Sanctissimi Redemptoris* (Redemptorist Fathers).—C.T.A.U. (6) Catholic Total Abstinence Union.—Ctl., cts., (5) cental, centals, weight of one hundred pounds, used authoritatively in California for grain.—Cur. (5) currency.—Curt. (2) Curtis's Supreme Court Reports.—Cush. (2) Cushing's Massachusetts Reports.—Cwt. (5) hundredweight. (In the United States Custom Houses a hundredweight is 112 pounds, in ordinary business transactions, in the United States, it is 100 pounds.)—Dak. (3) Dakota.—Dall. (2) Dallas's Pennsylvania Reports.—D.C. or Dist. Col. (3) District of Columbia.—D.D.S. (4) Doctor of Dental Surgery.—Del. (3) Delaware.—D.F.M.S. (7) Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (of the P.E. church).—Dill. (2) Dillon's Reports.—Dio. (7) Diocese.—Dis. (7) Discipline.—Dist. (1) District.—Div. (1) Division.—Doc. (1) Document.—E.L. (7) Evangelical Lutheran.—Eng. Dept. (1) Department of Engineers.—Ex. Doc. (1) Executive Document.—F.B. (7) Free

Baptist.—Fla. (3) Florida.—F.M. (7) Foreign Missions.—F.W.B. (7) Freewill Baptist.—Ga. (3) Georgia.—Galv. (3) Galveston.—G.A.R. (6) Grand Army of the Republic.—H.M. (7) Home Mission.—How. (2) Howard's United States Supreme Court Reports.—H.R. (1) House of Representatives.—H.Y.M.A. (7) Hebrew Young Men's Association.—Ia. (3) Iowa.—Id. (3) Idaho.—Ill. (3) Illinois.—Ind. (3) Indiana.—Ind. Ter. (3) Indian Territory.—Int. Dept. (1) Department of the Interior.—Int. Rev. (1) Internal Revenue.—I.O.O.F. (6) Independent Order of Odd Fellows.—I.O.R.M. (6) Improved Order of Red Men.—J. (2) Justice or Judge.—Kan. or Kans. (3) Kansas.—Kgs. (5) kgs.—K. of P. (6) Knights of Pythias.—Ky. (3) Kentucky.—La. (3) Louisiana.—L.I. (3) Long Island.—Mass. (3) Massachusetts.—M.C. (1) Member of Congress.—Md. (3) Maryland.—M.E. (7) Methodist Episcopal.—Me. (3) Maine.—Mex. (3) Mexico.—Mich. (3) Michigan.—Minn. (3) Minnesota.—Miss. (3) Mississippi.—Mo. (4) Missouri.—Mon. or Mont. (3) Montana.—M.P. (7) Methodist Protestant.—N.A. (3) North America.—N.B. (3) New Brunswick.—N.C. (3) North Carolina.—N.E. (3) New England.—Neb. (3) Nebraska.—Nev. (3) Nevada.—N.H. (3) New Hampshire.—N.J. (3) New Jersey.—N.M. or N. Mex. (3) New Mexico.—N.O. (3) New Orleans.—n.o.p. (4) Not otherwise provided for.—N.S. (3) Nova Scotia.—n.s. (5) Not specified.—N.S. (7) New School or New Side.—N.V. (7) New Version.—N.W.E.C. (7) North-western Education Commission.—N.Y. (3) New York.—O. (3) Ohio.—ol. (4) *oleum*, oil.—O.P. (7) *Ordinis Prædicatorum* (Dominican Friar).—Or. or Oreg. (3) Oregon.—O.S. (7) Old School or Old Side.—O.S.B. (7) *Ordinis Sancti Benedicti* (Benedictine Friar).—O.S.F. (7) *Ordinis Sancti Francis* (Franciscan Friar).—O.U.A.M. (6) Order of United American Mechanics.—Pa. or Penn. or Penna. (3) Pennsylvania.—P.B. (7) Primitive Baptist.—P.E. (7) Protestant Episcopal.—P.E.I. (3) Prince Edward Island.—Pet. (2) Peter's Reports United States Circuit Court.—Ph. D. (4) Doctor of Philosophy.—Phila. or Phil. (3) Philadelphia. P.R. (3) Porto Rico. Pres. (7) Presbyterian.—R.E. (7) Reformed Episcopal.—Rev. Stat. (2) Revised Statutes.—R.I. (3) Rhode Island.—R.P. (7) Reformed Presbyterian.—R.R. (5) Railroad.—S.B.C. (7) Southern Baptist Convention.—S.C. (3) South Carolina.—Sen. Doc. (1) Senate Document.—S.I.M. (7) Society for the Increase of the Ministry (P.E. Church).—S.P.R.L. (7) Society for the Promotion of Religion and Learning (P.E. Church).—S.S. (7) Sunday School.—SS. (7) Saints.—S.T. (6) Sons of Temperance.—S.T.B. (7) Bachelor of Sacred Theology.—S.T.D. (7) Doctor of Sacred Theology.—Sum. (2) Sumner's Reports United States Circuit Court.—T.A.B. (6) Total Abstinence Brotherhood.—Tab. (4)

Table, tabular statement.—Tenn. (3) Tennessee.—Tex. (3) Texas.—t.f. (5) till forbid; printer's mark on advertisements.—Tp. (3) township.—U.B. (7) United Brethren.—U.S.A. (1) United States of America, United States Army.—U.S.N. (1) United States Navy.—U.S.S. (1) United States Senate.—U.S.S. (1) United States Steamship (of war).—Va. (3) Virginia.—Vt. (3) Vermont.—Wall. (2) Wallace's Supreme Court Reports.—Wash. (3) Washington.—W.B.M. (7) Women's Board of Missions.—W.B.M.I. (7) Women's Board of Missions of the Interior.—W.C.A. (7) Women's Christian Association.—W.C.T.U. (7) Women's Christian Temperance Union.—Wheat. (2) Wheaton's Supreme Court Reports.—W.H.M.A. (7) Women's Home Missionary Association.—Wisc. (3) Wisconsin.—Wood. (2) Woodbury and Minot's United States Circuit Court Reports.—W.T. (3) Washington Territory.—W. Va. (3) West Virginia.—Wy. Ter. (3) Wyoming Territory.—X. (7) *χριστός* Christ.—Y.M.C.U. (7) Young Men's Christian Union.

**ABERGOINS, ABROGANS.**—Illiteracies for "aborigines," sometimes heard in the Western States. Both forms are used interchangeably for the orthodox word.—*See* ABORIGINAL.

**ABOARD.**—To GO OR GET ABOARD.  
—The manner in which Americans everywhere apply purely nautical phraseology to the incidents of land-travel strikes the English ear as somewhat curious. *To go aboard* a ship or any floating craft is good enough English, but when railway-guards, stage-drivers, coachmen, and cabmen urge passengers ALL ABOARD! the perversion of language is apparent. Its use, however, is universal.

About 9 o'clock last night, a Pacific steam laundry delivery wagon was damaged about fifty dollars by coming into forcible contact with Car No. 18 of the Lindell Railway Blue line. Several windows in the car were broken, and one of the sides was shattered, giving the passengers on BOARD a fright. Nobody was injured.—*The Canadian American*, 1888.

**ABOLITIONIST.**—With this word widely divergent meanings are associated

in different parts of the country. In the North an *Abolitionist* is simply one who favors or favored the abolition of slavery, and the name is in itself honorable. In the South it is a synonym for all that is contemptible, mean, and dishonest; this in addition to its true derivative signification as understood at the North. Many an affray has arisen in consequence of this divergence of meaning and the subsequent misunderstandings. The history of abolition is co-extensive with that of the United States, the anti-slavery agitation having begun before the Revolution, while Vermont abolished slavery within her borders in 1777.—To ABOLITIONIZE had its rise at the time of the revolt of the Southern States, and simply indicates the process of conversion to the principles of the *Abolitionists*.—ABOLITIONDOM was the term by which the Northern and Anti-Slavery States were known to, and spoken of by the Confederates.

Honest Ingun! I will. People would call me a low down AB'LTIONIST and despise me for keeping mum—but that don't make no difference. I ain't a-going to tell.  
—*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, p. 67.

**ABORIGINAL.**—A perverted meaning is sometimes attached to this word, as *e.g.*, when used to signify "original."

That is an ABORIGINAL idea;  
I never heard it before.  
—*Letters from the South*.

It is also employed instead of "Indian."

Bolling Robertson, equally a descendant of Pocahontas, had the Indian eye and the whole cast of his countenance was ABORIGINAL.—*Ibid*.

**ABOUT EAST.**—To the frontiersman or pioneer, the Eastern or New England States are typical of



all that he cherishes most and loves best. The vicissitudes of his rough Western life, the toil and hardships he has undergone while battling with nature and building up a new habitation far from the old homestead, all predispose him to turn with longing eyes and undying, though quaintly exaggerated love, to the East—the home of his fathers. A famous Yankee character (Major Jack Downing) makes use of the expression that he would “Go EAST of sunrise anyday to see sich a place.” Everybody and everything connected with the East, *i.e.*, his native land, is commendable. To his mind they cannot be surpassed—hence the things he would hold up to admiration he says are *about East, i.e.*, “about right.” Indeed, it is surprising what a strong hold this idea has upon the minds of men. Many a familiar phrase recalls the old times and the old folks to memory, which, in this respect, is evergreen. They talk of GOING DOWN EAST, that is, to New England, while the DOWN-EASTER is neither more nor less than the pure and veritable Yankee.

In no part of America (Iowa and Minnesota) is a purer English spoken. The native of Indiana finds when settled beside the Yankee, that he must drop some of his ‘Hoosierisms,’ while the accent and idiom brought from DOWN EAST are insensibly modified till the children of both compromise on the written language. — J. H. Beadle's *Western Wilds*, 1878.

**ABSQUATULATE, also ABSQUOTILATE.**—

To run away; to decamp; with the more or less forcible idea of absconding in disgrace. A facetitious word of American origin and jocular use, perhaps from Latin *ab* and American *squat*. It was first used by Mr. Hackett as Nimrod Wildfire, a Kentucky character in a play called “The Kentuckian,” by Bernard, pro-

duced in 1833. It is now less often heard than formerly, having been replaced in some degree by the word SKEDADDLE (*q.v.*).

**ACADEMY.**—A term grandiloquently applied even to the most insignificant village school. A writer in *Putnam's Magazine* sarcastically remarks that “schools no longer exist in the towns and villages; academies and colleges supplant them.”

**ACADIAN.**—Sometimes corrupted into “CAJEN,” a native or inhabitant of ACADIA or Nova Scotia. ACADIA was the old French name for Nova Scotia, that province being called after the river Shubenacadie; the change of name to Nova Scotia, literally, New Scotland, took place in 1621.

The native Louisianian, descendant of the early French settler, who called himself a ‘Creole,’ and the ACADIAN, more universally known, through a corruption of his name, as the CAJEN. — *Hallberger's Illustrated Magazine*, 1878, p. 577.

**ACCEPTED.**—The betrothed. Though generally reckoned an Americanism this word is of somewhat doubtful classification. At all events it is as frequently heard in England as in the States.

To cut the story short the whole matter was pleasantly settled and Hiram established the ACCEPTED of Miss Tenant. — *Kimball's Was he Successful?*

**ACCOMMODATE, To.**—Although the phrase “Accommodation for man and beast,” is generally current in England as well as in the States, the verb to *accommodate* is used in America in a way that to English ears sounds novel; as, for example, when a traveller inquiring for an hotel is informed that there are none, but that “so and so *accommodates*.” — **ACCOMMODA-**

**TION TRAIN.**—A slow train stopping at all stations.

It was a midsummer day, and the weather was delightful. The train was neither an express nor an ACCOMMODATION, but one which stopped at the principal stations on the route.—*American Yachtsman*, 1888.

**ACCOUNT.**—To speak of men or things as of *no account* is not unusual amongst English writers. In the Southern and Western States, however, the expression is used adjectively in a somewhat odd and distinctively American manner; as, for example, when a farm, a horse, or a journal is said to be a *no account* farm, a *no account* horse, etc., the meaning being that they are worthless or of little value.

What surprises me too, more than ever, is that my wife would have anything to do with this fellow Harding. He is a *NO ACCOUNT* fellow who scarcely ever is employed, and I don't believe could earn ten dollars a week.—*Weekly Examiner (San Francisco)*, March 22, 1888.

**ACEQUIA.**—An irrigating ditch, the same kind of water canal as may be seen in the central parts and elevated plateaus of old Spain. Brought by Spanish Colonists and used in Texas and New Mexico. The spelling of the word is sometimes varied—*AZEQUIA*, *ZEQUIA*.

As to the canals and *ACEQUIAS*, he has surveyed on this plain 375 miles of them, and the end is not yet. One of them is seventy-nine miles long and thirty-eight feet wide for a long distance from its head. They, as well as the reservoirs, fire-places (or basins) and the granaries are all lined with a greyish-white cement resembling chalk, both in appearance and in consistency.—*Missouri Republican*, April 8, 1888.

**ACROSS LOTS.**—To GO ACROSS LOTS is to proceed by the shortest route; similarly to do anything in the most expeditious manner. The phrase had its rise in the natural tendency of settlers in thinly popu-

lated districts to shorten the distance from point to point by leaving the road and striking *across vacant lots* (*q.v.*).

'I didn't see Crosby go by, did you?'

'He'd have had to foot it by the path 'cross-Lots,' replied Ezra, gravely, from the doorstep.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

—Brigham Young familiarized its idiomatic use in the now notoriously historic saying attributed to that "Saint"—"We'll send them (the Gentiles) to hell *across lots*."

**ACKRUFFS.**—An old slang expression for river thieves.

**AD.**—An abbreviation of "advertisement." This is another Americanism by birth which has been generally adopted on both sides of the Atlantic. Thus the country editor's wife—

. . . . . reads the ADS with the editor,

Just to find what each has paid.'

'But the column AD. of the jeweller, there,'

So he says, 'and the harness, and human hair,

Must be taken out in trade!'

She wears the corsets he gets for ADS.,

And rattles his sewing machine;  
She uses the butter, and cups,  
and things,

The country subscriber so faithfully brings,

With a cheerfulness seldom seen.

**ADAM AND EVE** (*Aplectrum hyemale*).—

The putty root; an orchis. Many plants have been the recipients of this popular name, and it is applied to *A. hyemale* because its two tuberous roots co-exist although of different year's growths, the one nourishing the existing plant, the other, the succeeding one. Cf. *art*,

*Adam and Eve* in Britten and Holland's *English Plant Names*.

**ADDITION, DIVISION, AND SILENCE!**—A Philadelphia expression, which, for a time, had a vogue as a catch phrase.

**ADDRESSEE.**—This new word, "*addressee*," has been popularised in the post office department. The post office clerks have constantly to refer to persons to whom letters, papers, etc., are addressed, and it being altogether too tedious to keep writing, "The person to whom the letter is addressed," "The person to whom the paper is addressed," and so on, they coined the word *addressee*. It is such a convenient word, that it is coming into general use, and even Dr. Murray has recognized it. De Quincey used it as far back as 1858.

**ADJECTIVE JERKER.**—A term of derision applied, like *INK-SLINGER*, to those who write for the press. The special allusion in the present case is doubtless to the want of discrimination which young writers, and reporters on low-class papers, often exhibit in the use of a plethora of adjectives to qualify a simple statement of fact.

Genevieve spent four hours last night in constructing a three-line letter, which she sent to an *ADJECTIVE JERKER* on a society weekly, and in which she said she would spend the summer months in the Rocky Mountains.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, April 29, 1888.

**ADMIRATION, SIGN OF (Masonic).**—Employed in the Most Excellent Master's degree, the sixth of the new American Rite. It refers to the legend of the visit of Balkis, Queen of Sheba, to Solomon.

**ADMIRE, TO.**—(1) Common in New England in the sense of to be affected by wonder or surprise; and also—(2) as expressive of

keen desire, e.g., "I should *admire* to be at the picnic next week." In the former sense it is used by Beaumont and Fletcher, Shakespeare, Milton, Pepys, and other old writers, but it is now rarely heard in England.

They were under written contract . . . but they did not care anything for that. They said they would *ADMIRE* to see a 'Gentile' force a Mormon to fulfil a losing contract in Utah!—*Mark Twain's Roughing It*.

**ADOBIE, ADOBE, DOBIE.**—Explained by quotation. Of Mexican-Spanish origin.

The station buildings were long, low huts, made of sun-dried, mud-coloured bricks, laid up without mortar (*ADOBES*, the Spaniards call these bricks, and Americans shorten it to '*DOBIES*').—*Mark Twain's Roughing It*.

**ADULTERER.**—This word is, in the States, not solely applied, as in England, to a violator of the marriage vows; it is also used, instead of adulterator, to signify the person who adulterates or debases. In this sense it has long been obsolete in England.

**ADVANCE BACKWARD, TO.**—A rather odd way of expressing retrogression.

The advice given to his company by a raw Yankee captain to *ADVANCE BACKWARD* seems paralleled in the *Chicago Tribune* of the 18th inst.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*, Jan. 23 1888.

**ADVANCED FEMALE.**—A sarcastic allusion to the "women's righters," as they are slangily called. The nickname was introduced at the commencement of the agitation in favour of woman suffrage.

One of the oddest instances of the short-sightedness of the *ADVANCED FEMALE* to the interest of her own cause was given in the petition recently offered to our State Legislature.—*New York Tribune*, 1888.



**ADVENTISM** and **ADVENTIST** or, more commonly, **MILLERISM** and **MILLERITE** (*q.v.*).

**ADVISEMENT**.—To HAVE UNDER ADVISEMENT, *i.e.*, under consideration. Rarely heard in England, but common in the States.

Chief Justice Waite, on being informed that the matter wanted time to look up certain records and precedents, said the matter would be taken under ADVISEMENT. —*Missouri Republican*, Feb. 11, 1888.

Judge Miles Beach has under ADVISEMENT a demurrer in a most remarkable case. —*Philadelphia Evening Bulletin*, Feb. 23, 1888.

**AFFEARED**.—Obsolete among people of education in England, its place having been taken by the modern form "afraid." It is still current in the Southern States. A.S. *fearan*, and Old English "to fear," used transitively for "to frighten" or "terrify"—hence **AFFEARED**, frightened.

Though with his breath the hinges of the world  
Did crack, we should stand upright and  
UNFEARED.

—*Shakespeare*.

'What wuz you lookin' over the cliff, fer?'  
'Zeke Tucker. He's workin' fer me, an'  
he's been gone all the mornin' arter my  
claybank boss. I'm AFEARD sumpin's hap-  
pened.' —*Scribner's Magazine*, 1888.

**AFFECTION, To**.—To have a liking for. A very old form, and nearly, if not quite obsolete in England.

Missus didn't AFFECTION Yankees much; and Cunnucks she hated like poison, 'cause they enticed off negroes. —*Sam Slick's Human Nature*.

**AFFINITY**.—A cant term in frequent use amongst the so-called **FREE-LOVERS** (*q.v.*). One's *affinity* is supposed to be a person of the opposite sex, for whom an attachment so strong is felt that even if already married, as more often than not is the case, the husband will abandon

his legitimate wife, and *vice versa*, in favour of the new attraction, or *affinity* as he or she is called. The argument is generally only an excuse for unbridled sexual license; indeed, it is inconceivable that it could be otherwise, except in a society of seraphs and archangels.

**AFORE**.—Modernised to "before." *Afore* is still current in the New England States, but is now obsolete in England as far as literature (excepting the Bible and Prayer Book) and cultivated speech are concerned.—So also **AFOREHAND**.

**AFRICANIZE, To**.—Introduced by Southern political writers, in the sense of "placing under negro control." Since the extension of the franchise to the blacks, the colored vote in some of the Southern States completely dominates the white poll, and the term has consequently obtained a very wide and melancholy currency.—**AFRICANIZATION**, the act of placing under negro domination, is of similar origin.

**AFTERCLAP**.—(1) Current in Pennsylvania and the Western States to signify an attempt to unjustly extort more in a bargain or agreement than has been agreed upon.

His blamed AFTERCLAPS raised my rile, and made me rip. I was na' goin' to stan' that rush anyhow, as I had agreed afore to pay fifty dollars for the trade. —*Overland Monthly*, 1880.

—(2) An unexpected after-effect; the tag-end of anything. Once current in England, but very rarely heard now, if at all.

**AFTER NIGHT**.—After sunset. A local expression, says De Vere, peculiar to Pennsylvania and some of the Border States. In these

localities "night" is very commonly used for the hours of the afternoon, and hence "Court will open again *after night*," simply means after sunset, as it is elsewhere expressed. This is probably a survival, since it is provincial in some parts of England.

**AGAZE.**—Astonished; open-eyed. Thieves' slang.

**AGER.**—A Southern corruption of "ague."

He himself had been troubled with a DUMB-AGER since last Conference.—*Bret Harte's Luck of Roaring Camp*, p. 166.

In the North "ague" (pronounced as in plague) is corrupted into AGUY and AGY, while in the West the expression is FEVERNAGY (fever and ague), also SHAKING AGUE.

My host was indeed 'stuck up,' doubled up, too, I should say. FEVERNAGER, Arkansas swamps, and prairie sloughs had done their appointed work on him, and he was that perfect wreck, a 'thoroughly acclimated man.' He was, in local phrase, 'yaller behind the gills.'—*J. H. Beadle's Western Wilds*.

We had built our cabin on a high divide, far above the miasma of the swamps, but the local disease that the natives call FEVERN'AGER had moved in when we did. I, with the usual obstinacy of my sex, refused to shake, but poor Tom! Every other day he shook so that the mud 'chinkin' all fell out from between the logs, and the loose puncheons of the floor rattled as loudly as the one pane of glass that formed our window.—*Texas Siftings*, June 30, 1888.

**AGONY.**—To PILE ON THE AGONY.—To intensify a statement or relation by exaggerated or bloodcurdling details. Newspapers *pile on the agony* when "writing up" murder, divorce, and other sensations. Common everywhere.

**A-GREENING.**—Growing, or becoming green; the prefix A is an Anglo-Saxon survival.

The grass will soon be A-GREENING.—*Philadelphia Bulletin*, Feb. 27, 1888.

—Also used idiomatically, to impose upon one's credulity.

'Haint Tom Grayson h-ye?' says Jake. 'No,' says Byfiel. 'Somebody's been A-GREENIN' on you, Jake; Tom hain't never been h-ye,' says he.—*Century Magazine*.

**AGUADIENTE.**—Spanish for brandy, and now applied to spirit distilled from the red wine of Mexico. A corruption of *Aqua ardiente*—the Indian fire-water. The term is applied to either rum, brandy, or whiskey.

There are times in human affairs when AGUADIENTE is of value; and this was one of them. Under the stimulus Big Jim revived and looked around with wonder at the crowd.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, 1888.

**AGUR-FORTY.**—The aquafortis of medicine.

Your honour needn't say another word; I knock under; this man's whiskey ain't Red Eye, it ain't Chain Lightnin' either; its regular AGUR-FORTY, and there isn't a man living can stand a glass and keep his senses.—*New Orleans Picayune*, June, 1888.

**AIR-HOLE.**—A term applied to certain parts of the St. Lawrence River, which, even in the hardest winter, do not freeze.

**AIR LINE.**—TO TAKE THE AIR LINE.—To go direct, and by the shortest route; idiomatically, to avoid circumlocution.

The obese style once admired is now disliked. Many old English authors had too much rhetoric for our age. Of one thing we are profoundly convicted, that we have no time to spare for superfluities. An author must take the AIR-LINE or we will not travel.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, Jan. 24, 1888.

The origin of this expression is to be found in the straight lines of railway, without expensive detours and grades, which, in the New



World, are rendered possible by the vast expanses of unbroken level. These lines of railway are called *Air Line Roads*, or *STRAIGHT SHOOTS* (*q.v.*). De Vere remarks that since the number of such roads has increased in the more thickly settled parts of the Union, the advantages of direct lines between two great centres over others which meander from town to town have become very manifest, and for a few years a tendency to build such *Air Lines* has agitated Legislatures, from whom help is asked, and financial circles in the States and abroad. These lines not unfrequently run for long distances by the side of older lines.

Ask for tickets via Augusta or Atlanta and the Piedmont AIR LINE.—*Advertisement in the Florida Times Union*, Feb. 11, 1888.

**AIRLY.**—A corruption of "early."

**ALA.**—A contraction used in writing and printing for ALABAMA. The name of this State is derived from a tribe of Indians who were called "Alibamons" or "Alibamous," by the early French settlers; the popular etymology, therefore, which interprets it as meaning "Here we rest" is erroneous.

**ALABAMA QUESTION.**—The political incident known as the *Alabama Question* has become part of the history both of this country and America. The "Alabama" was, during the American War, built at Birkenhead for the service of the Confederates, manned with English seamen, who were paid with English money, and sailed under the British flag. While yet building the American ambassador entered a protest, and, after long delay, an order was

issued by the Government to detain the ship. In the meantime the "Alabama" had put to sea, and had commenced a course of depredation which resulted in the complete paralysis of the whole trade of the North. She was finally run aground near Cherbourg by the United States man-of-war "Kearsage." The United States Government claimed an indemnity from the English on the ground of culpable negligence and violation of belligerent rights, and the matter being submitted to arbitration, a tribunal meeting at Geneva, England was declared entirely responsible for the damage inflicted upon Northern trade by the "Alabama," and partly responsible on similar grounds for that caused by two other ships the "Florida" and "Shenandoah." £3,250,000 were awarded as damages, other cruisers being "exculpated."

**ALAMEDA** (Spanish).—A public road bordered with trees; a boulevard. Common in the South and West.

**ALAMO** (*Populus monilifera*).—The name by which the COTTON-WOOD TREE (*q.v.*) is known in Texas and other formerly Spanish States.

**ALBANY BEEF.**—The popular name of the flesh of the sturgeon. This, in colour and taste, has some resemblance to beef, especially when cut in steaks and grilled. Albany is a town on the Hudson River as high as which the fish in question is or was to be caught in large numbers, and, as a matter of course, consequently formed a not inconsiderable factor in the food supply of the inhabitants—hence the term *Albany beef*.

**ALBANY HEMP** (*Urtica canadensis*).—The Canada nettle. The fibre of

the bark of this plant was at one time largely used in Albany (N.Y.), in the manufacture of hemp—hence its name.

**ALBANY REGENCY.**—So called from the residence of its members at the State capital of New York. It was an association of Democratic politicians organised in 1820, and including in its early membership Martin Van Buren, Silas Wright, John A. Dix, Dean Richmond, Peter Caggar and many others. It absolutely, though unofficially, controlled the action of the Party until 1854, when, its opponents having learnt its methods, its power was broken.

**ALCOHOLISM.**—Drunkenness, or the state of being given to the excessive use of strong drinks. Of American origin, but included in Murray's *New English Dictionary*.

A bartender died Monday afternoon at the City Hospital from injuries to his head. The permit contained the word 'ALCOHOLISM,' but this must have been an erroneous diagnosis.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, Feb. 28, 1888.

**ALDERWOMAN.**—The invasion of municipal and other public offices by women has naturally resulted in the fabrication of many new words, of which *alderwoman* is one. Oskaloosa, in Kansas, has recently made a bold experiment and elected a Town Council composed entirely of women, its president being a Mayoress, in place of the usual Mayor.

The Oskaloosa (Kan.) City Council Chamber now has signs hung upon its walls prohibiting the use of tobacco in any form. The new **ALDERWOMEN** are now figuring on an appropriation for tidies to cover the backs of the benches.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, Feb. 14, 1888.

**ALEWIFE** (*pl.* ALEWIVES).—The common term along the New England

coast for two species of Clupeids, of the genus or sub-genus *Mesetta*—the *M. vernalis* and the *M. oestualis*—anadromous fish of the herring kind, the former being the most plentiful, though, from various causes, their number is much less numerous than formerly. The *Alewife* is much esteemed as a food fish, and the United States' Fisheries' Commission have reported it as preferable for this and economical purposes to the herring, to which it is closely allied. The name *Alewife* is supposed to be a corruption of the Indian *Aloofe*, though some derive it from the French *Alose*—a shad. Also called **OLD-WIVES** in Maryland and Virginia, and **ALE WHAP** (*pl.* Ale whaps) and **BUCK-EYES** in Connecticut.

On Saturday last the ALEWIVES began running in the streams at the eastern end of Great South Bay, and great numbers were being taken for food in the little brooks where they go to spawn. Men and boys were dipping them up on most of the south side streams.—*Forest and Stream*, May, 1888.

**ALFALFA.**—A Spanish term for a plant of the clover family naturalised in the United States. It is otherwise known as lucerne, or the English sanfoin.

A. R. Earl, of Douglas City, has been on Indian Creek lately, plowing up the ground, and seeding it with ALFALFA. Everybody in that section has had the ALFALFA FEVER. . . . As an instance of the great growth of this species of clover, Mr. Earl told us that Earl and Steinmuller have an orchard at Douglas City, which is also planted with ALFALFA. . . . The grass was cut every five weeks, etc. . . . (Our ranchmen) will find it greatly to their advantage to plant it extensively, and use it as winter-feed for stock.—*Weekly Trinity Journal* (Weaver-ville), April 6, 1872.

**ALFILARIA** (*Erodium cicutarium*) Also known as **STORKSBILL**, **PIN-GRASS**, **FILAREE**, etc. A valuable forage plant of the dry regions from

Colorado and New Mexico to Southern California, where it makes its growth during the moist winter season. It is not sown in the eastern portion of the United States, as there are better forage plants for that part of the country, and as when introduced there it became a somewhat troublesome weed. For the great South-west, however, it has much merit, and there is a large demand for seed upon ranches, where the grass supply has been diminished by stock. Prof. S. M. Tracy, who has investigated the forage plants of the arid regions of the South-west during the past season in the interest of the Department, reports that *Alfilaria* is highly prized wherever he has been, and that people have made frequent requests for seed in new localities.

**ALKALI DESERT, ALKALI LAND, ALKALI FLATS.**—Mark Twain, in *Roughing It*, says the concentrated hideousness of these tracts of country common in Wyoming, Nebraska, and Montana shames the diffused and diluted horrors of Sahara. "For sixty-eight miles there was but one break in it. The *alkali* dust cut through our lips, it persecuted our eyes, it eat through the delicate membranes, and made our noses bleed, and kept them bleeding." Since that time the Union Pacific Railroad has crossed these arid plains, and although the dust is still a source of annoyance and inconvenience to the traveller, yet the face of the country is gradually being changed from a howling wilderness into a fertile and blooming garden. A western paper, quoted by De Vere, says the *alkali* consists of gypsum and the chlorate of potassium and soda—a combination in the highest degree fertilising, when not in too great excess in the

soil. Wherever irrigation is practicable, the vegetable productions of this region attain a size and perfection utterly unknown in the Eastern States. The organic elements, moreover, are not capable of being exhausted, as they ascend by evaporation from the underlying deposits. It is more than probable that artesian wells may yet convert a large part of these arid wastes into fertile fields.

**ALL ABOARD!**—With characteristic smartness the railway guard or conductor in the States will warn passengers by "*All aboard!*" in place of the English "Take your seats." In many respects nautical phraseology (with which Americans were well acquainted long before the introduction of railways), has been transferred and applied to all locomotion, whether by rail, omnibus, or other means. A man even gets *aboard* his horse or mule.

'ALL ABOARD!'

It was in this peremptory manner that the driver roused us in the early morning. Dressing and breakfasting, in obedience to the ALL ABOARD summons, we looked for the caller of these words and found him playing with a little child.

'Where are your horses?' we asked.

'Durned if I know,' he smilingly replied.—*Portland Transcript*, Feb. 15, 1888.

**ALL ANY MORE.**—A piece of jargon signifying "all gone." Sometimes simply "all." The latter is probably derived from the German *alle*, which is familiarly used in the sense of gone. *Die Suppe ist alle* means "the soup is (all) gone." Thus the waiter at an hotel will say, "The pies are *all any more*, Sir," meaning that there are no more.

**ALLAPACA, ALPACA.**—The corrupted name of a well known cloth; common with traders.



**ALL-A-SETTING.**—In good condition—a term of barnyard origin. Western in usage.

On the first good grass which they (oxen) strike, they halt a few days, and allow the teams to graze undisturbed, which makes them **ALL-A-SETTING** again. — *Overland Monthly*.

**ALL DAY.**—Used to signify strength, steadiness, and capacity for work. Thus people speak of "an all day nigger," i.e., a nigger (rarely found it must be confessed) who is untiring and vigilant in his work; an all day horse, mule, or other beast of burden, meaning a strong and desirable beast.

**ALL-FIRED, ALL-FIREDLY.**—Bartlett quotes this as a Puritanical corruption of "hell-fired," and, in that respect, a profane euphemistic adjective. It carries with it the meaning of "immense," "excessive," or "inordinate" in general, but, of course, the primary signification of this corruption is perfectly obvious.

'Did you ever have any other close calls with grizzlies?' we asked.

'You bet, stranger. One morning I heard an **ALL-FIRED** screaming and yelling down below my hut in a deep hollow, and so concluded I had caught something in one of my traps. Slipping along cautiously to see what was up, I discovered that a bear cub had accidentally got into one of my traps and was making a terrible fuss to get loose again.'—*Cincinnati Enquirer*, 1888.

**ALLIGATOR.**—The American crocodile. From the Spanish *El lagarto*, which by a series of corruptions has been Anglicised in its present form. The term *alligator* is applied to all the saurians found in the New World, some only of which are true members of that genus. Now a dictionary word. See Murray's *New English Dictionary* for exhaustive etymology. — **ALLIGATOR GAR.**—A large pike-like fish

found in fresh waters. Adapted by nature for purposes of offence and defence, being capable of living out of the water as well as in it. Sir Charles Lyall describes him as "a happy fellow who beats all creation; he can hurt everything and nothing can hurt him." Its distinctive name is derived from a resemblance to the alligator. —

**ALLIGATOR PEAR OR APPLE** (*Laurus persea gratissima*).—A Negro corruption of **AVOCADO PEAR** (*q.v.*). An edible pear-shaped product of the tropics, very much esteemed on account of its delicately-flavored buttery or marrow-like pulp, which, when perfectly ripe, is of the consistency of butter. The taste for this fruit is, generally speaking, an acquired one. It is usually eaten as dessert, with pepper and salt. Also called the **SUBALTERN'S** or the **MIDSHIPMAN'S BUTTER**. — **ALLIGATOR TORTOISE** (*Chelydra serpentina*).—A marsh tortoise found in Carolinian and other Southern waters. Another popular name for it is **THE SNAPPING TURTLE**. — **ALLIGATOR WOOD** (*Guarea swartzii*). — A West Indian Tree.

**ALLOTTEE.**—One who receives an allotment. This class of words during late years has become increasingly numerous, the form of termination being American in origin. Many of the words have now gained a permanent place in the language, e.g., legatee, referee, allottee, payee.

**ALLOT UPON, To.**—To decide upon; to have an intention. A New England colloquialism.

Senator W. seems to have **ALLOTTED UPON** a course that is hardly to be commended. — *Banner of Light* (Boston).

**ALLOW, To.**—(1) To assert, declare, or make a statement. So used in the

Southern and Middle States, but rarely elsewhere. The expression seems to carry with it a force hardly attributable to "said," its nearest equivalent. It is obviously a corruption of that meaning of *to allow*, which is synonymous with 'to admit,' "to acknowledge."

Mother is perfectly ridiculous; she ALLOWED she'd surch me if I didn't go home, and she picked up a bit of brush. I ups with another, and told her to come on.—*Putnam's Magazine*, June, 1868.

—(2) Used also as the equivalent of the Eastern "guess" and the Southern "reckon."

'Mr. Rife 'Lows ye'd better see if ye can't settle it outside'n the law, day,' his oldest son had said to him before he brought his suit; 'he 'Lows that mebbe the comp'ny'll give ye a place whar ye kin use yer arm that's soun', an' whar ye won't be in no danger no mo'.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

**ALL SORTS OF.**—First rate; excellent.

A phrase very common in the South and West, and used in many different ways. It carries with it the idea of smartness and *chic*, as, e.g., when applied to a woman, a horse, or a building.

**ALLSPICE** (*Eugenia pimenta*).—The Jamaica pepper or pimenta. The dried peppercorn-like berries are supposed to possess a mixed flavor of cinnamon, cloves, and nutmeg—hence the popular name.—**CAROLINA ALLSPICE** (*Calycanthus floridus*). A flowering shrub abundant in Carolina, the bark and wood of which have an aromatic flavor, from which is derived its distinctive name.

**ALL'S QUIET ON THE POTOMAC.**—A period of undisturbed rest, quiet enjoyment, or peaceful possession; a phrase dating from the Civil War, when its frequent repetition in the bulletins of the War Secretary made it familiar to the public, who

quickly appropriated it in a metaphorical sense. It has since formed the refrain of many a song.

**ALL QUIET ALONG THE POTOMAC**, they say,  
Except now and then a stray picket  
Is shot on his beat as he walks to and fro,  
By a rifleman hid in a thicket.  
—*The Picket Guard*.

**ALL TO PIECES.**—(1) Complete failure or defeat—(2) utterly; thoroughly. "He fell *all to pieces* in his running," i.e., he failed to do what was expected of him. An instance of a vulgarism falling into general disuse in England, being preserved as a colloquialism in America, and gradually making its way again into popular favor.

**ALL TO SMASH.**—An English provincialism now more common in the States than in the Mother Country. It signifies a state of utter dilapidation or complete discomfiture.

**ALL TWO.**—Both. A pleonastic negro corruption.

**ALMIGHTY.**—The use of long, high-sounding words among the rough, untutored backwoodsmen and pioneers of the Great West, in speaking of and describing the simplest actions and most commonplace objects of every day life has been very remarkable. This practice has gradually made its way among the uneducated throughout the States, and it is by no means an uncommon occurrence to hear a speculation described as an *almighty* big venture or a keen disappointment characterized as an eternal shame and so forth. An intensified meaning is also given to the word, as e.g., when people talk of a man playing *almighty* smash with his prospects, or his driving another into *almighty* shivers, through ill treatment, or of a thing



lasting till *almighty* crack, *i.e.*, for an interminable period.—See EVER-LASTING.

'This is a rum world,' said the driver, with a chuckle, as he drove up the street. 'And of all places in it New York is the rummiest. And hack-drivin' is the rummiest business, leadin' one into the rummiest secrets. Another passenger to the "Rookery." I wonder whether the other boys gits as many customers to that place as Luke Hyatt? If they do it must be *ALMIGHTY* full sometimes.'—*New York Mercury*, July 21, 1888.

—*ALMIGHTY DOLLAR*.—The worship of Mammon. Ben Jonson speaks of "almighty gold" in the same sense. In its more modern American use the phrase is traceable to Washington Irving. "The *almighty dollar*, that great object of universal devotion throughout our land, seems to have no genuine devotee in these peculiar (Creole) villages."—*W. Irving, Wolfert's Roost*, p. 40.

*ALONG*.—TO GET ALONG.—An expression used in place of the form "to get on" as more commonly heard in England.

*ALONSENEL* (*Cowania stansburiana*).—A medicinal herb, much esteemed for its astringent and other properties, especially in cases of hæmorrhage. The name is Mexican, and the plant is largely found in the neighbourhood of Salt Lake.

*ALTEMAL* (Cant).—(1) All together, as "Let's anchor *altomal*," *i.e.*, "Let us come to a stop altogether."  
—(2) The sum total of a bill or story.—(3) An injunction to "cut it short."

*ALTER*, To.—To geld. Specially used as regards animals in the Southern States.

*ALUMNI*.—SOCIETY OF ALUMNI.—Associations of the graduates of a

particular college for the promotion of literature and good fellowship, literally *ALUMNI*—those who are being educated at a particular college. The *Society of Alumni* of William's College was the first established (1821), but most of the American Universities have associations formed on the same basis.

*ALUM ROOT* (*Henchera americana*).—An astringent herb formerly much used on account of its medicinal properties. The term *alum root* seems, however, to be a popular one and other roots of an astringent character bear the same name, as *i.g.*, *Geranium maculatum*.

*AMALGAMATE*, To.—Primarily this verb is only correctly used in reference to the union of metals, other substances and abstract ideas, but in the States it is universally used with regard to the admixture of the black with the white race, the corresponding noun *AMALGAMATION* being also similarly used.

*AMAZONS, ORDER OF* (Masonic).—A system of Androgynous Masonry, which for a time excited some interest in South America during the last century. It was attempted to be introduced into the United States in 1740, but did not answer.

*AMBIA*.—A euphemism for the tobacco juice produced by chewing. Mainly used in the South and West. Apparently a corruption of "amber" (indeed it is more commonly spelled and pronounced *ambeer* than otherwise) — presumably from its color being similar to that of expectorated saliva.

*AMBITION*.—Ignorantly used in Virginia and North Carolina for spite or grudge. Thus one man

would accuse another of having an *ambition* against him, *i.e.*, a grudge or ill-feeling.

**AMBITIOUS.**—(1) Used in Georgia and the West in the sense of full of anger and rage as regards persons, or untamed and unmanageable in the case of animals. Thus an *ambitious* man would signify one of ungovernable temper; an *ambitious* mule—a beast full of vice and generally refractory.—(2) In Massachusetts and Connecticut a much milder meaning is conveyed by the word, although still quite different to its ordinary signification. In these States it is indicative of energy, industry, and moral worth as regards human beings, and is descriptive of good points where animals are concerned.

**AMBUSH** (Cant).—Fraudulent weights and measures. A punning allusion to the accepted meaning of the word—to lie in wait (lying weight).

**AMERACE** (Cant).—Jargon signifying near at hand; within call.

**AMERICAINE.**—A small, light, four-wheeled carriage for two persons, with seat for servant. In use in Germany.

At the door stands the AMERICAINE, so called because more *unlike* an AMERICAINE than any other conceivable vehicle.—*Miss Rhoda Broughton's Good-bye, Sweetheart.*

**AMERICAN.**—The *American* party originated in New York in 1844, its avowed object being to oppose the usurpation of the City government by foreigners. Owing to the extreme views of its leaders it fell into disfavor, but came to the front again in 1853, under the popular designation of KNOW NOTHINGS (*q.v.*)—**AMERICANESS.**—A woman of American birth.

This lady is like most AMERICANESSES—she hates walking.—*Hallberger's Illustrated Magazine.*

—**TO AMERICANISE.**—The process of naturalizing people and things in America.

Those at work are nearly all newcomers to the country, and are not yet AMERICANIZED.

—**AMERICANIZATION.**—The state of having become subject to the laws and customs of the United States.—**AMERICAN KNIGHTS.**—Knights of the Golden Circle (*q.v.*).

—**AMERICAN MYSTERIES** (Masonic).—*See* MEXICAN MYSTERIES.

—**AMERICAN RITE** (Masonic).—The usage or custom of Masonry in America. This rite, like most others now in use, is founded on the York Rite, and is subsequent to the revival of Masonry in 1717.—**AMERICAN CITIZEN OF AFRICAN DESCENT.**—This euphemistic title for a negro was very common in certain circles after the Emancipation proclamation.

**AMERICAN TWEEZERS** (Cant).—An ingenious instrument of American invention by means of which it is possible to turn a key in a door and unlock it from the outside.

**AMERIGATE, TO.**—To go or proceed to America. A punning compound of Mark Lemon's. "Joe wants to *amerigate*," that is, go to America. Probably an individualism.

**AMNESTY OATH.**—Also derisively called the DAMNASTY OATH. At the close of the Civil War, Southerners, as an outward sign of their loyalty to the Union, were required to subscribe to sundry oaths. One of these, the *Amnesty Oath*, carried with it a pardon on the terms set forth therein, but these were deemed so unpalatable,

odious, and harsh by the conquered South, that the oath was nicknamed as aforesaid.

**AMOLE** (*Phalangium pomeridianum*).—The soap plant, a native of the sandy plains extending from Arkansas to California. Its pulp lathers well and is used in the same manner as ordinary soap, to the brown variety of which it is not altogether dissimilar in smell. The fibre of the plant was also used by the Spaniards for saddle cloths.

**AMPUTATE, TO**—Thieves slang for decamping; to take flight. Used in the same way as "to cut," "to skip," in English slang.

**AMUSERS** (Cant).—A certain class of thieves' accomplices who throw snuff, pepper, and other noxious substances in the eyes of the person they intend to rob, a confederate then, while apparently coming to the rescue, completing the operation. In this as in much of the slang of the criminal classes there runs a vein of brutal cynicism.

**ANAGRETA**.—Immature maize, sundried or fire-baked to preserve its sweetness. Mixed with pease it is highly esteemed for puddings. Peculiar to New York and New Jersey.

**ANAN OR ANEND**.—How? What do you say? An interrogatory ejaculation which Bartlett says is common in Pennsylvania, and which De Vere states is also used in New Jersey. It is an archaism defined by Halliwell as used by the lower class when addressing a superior when not hearing or comprehending what is said to them. A corruption of "anent."

**ANCHOVY PEAR** (*Grias cauliflora*).—A large esculent mango-like stone fruit indigenous to Jamaica. The tree itself is very ornamental, being tall and unbranched, with leaves two or three feet long and large white flowers. It is widely cultivated on this account.

**ANCIENT DOMINION**.—More commonly called the **OLD DOMINION** (*q.v.*).

**ANEND**.—**RIGHT ANEND**, *i.e.*, continuously.—*See* **ANAN**.

**ANGELIFEROUS**.—A factitious word indicative of super-excellence. It may be remarked, however, that "angelification," "angelify," and "angelified," were in use in the 17th century, but never to any great extent.

**ANGLER**.—(1) A street prowler who, more often than not, belongs to a gang of petty thieves, and who is always on the look out for opportunities to commit small larcenies, by means of hooked sticks, fishing lines, etc.—(2) *Lophius americanus*.—A most curious fish peculiar to American waters, sometimes also popularly but wrongfully named the **DEVIL-FISH** or **SEA-DEVIL**. It derives its name of the *angler* by reason of its long feelers. These projecting from the mud in which it hides itself, attract the smaller fish which form its food.

**ANGLOMANIACS**.—A club in Boston is thus self-styled. Its members are opposed to anything British in every shape and form.

**ANGLO-SAXONDOM**.—A comprehensive term for the English-speaking race in general, including alike Americans, the inhabitants of the Mother Country, and her various Colonies.



**ANIMAL.**—A name given to new arrivals at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

—To GO THE WHOLE ANIMAL.

—A variant of "to go the whole hog." In the West Indies it is varied by "to go the whole dog."

**ANIMULES.**—This expression is very generally used in the South-western territories and in California as a substitute for "mules." A witty play upon "animals" and "mules."

'Ten miles to town! Waal, stranger, I guess I'll stake out here to-night. Them ANIMULES is too beat to do that. Where's yer water?' 'It's all around you to-night; but you can turn your mules into the corral.'  
—*Centre-Pole Bill, in Overland Monthly.*

**ANNATTO.**—A well-known West Indian orange-red dye, and article of commerce. The name is supposed to be of native American origin.

**ANNUNCIATOR.**—A word used in connection with electrical apparatus. A warning bell.

When one person wishes to communicate with another by the telantagraph he pushes a button, which rings an ANNUNCIATOR in the exchange, or in the office of the person with whom he wishes to converse.—*American, April 11, 1888.*

**ANOINTED (Cant).**—Flogged. In English cant the same word is used to signify great rascality.

**ANTE, To.**—To bet or risk generally. A technical term at poker where a bet placed *ante* signifies one placed in opposition to the dealer's bet. "What will you *ante*?" is now as common an expression as "what will you bet?"—To ANTE UP is to pay, as well as to wager.

If you cannot be a marksman  
And like a champion shoot,  
You still can give him polish  
By the blacking of his boot.

If you cannot be a Captain  
Of a famous base ball nine,  
You can ANTE up your fifty cents,  
And at the players whine.  
—*New York Mercury, July 21, 1888.*

**ANTE-HUMOUS.**—An antithetical, facetious word to posthumous, and therefore signifying published before the death of an author.

**ANTI-FEDERALIST.**—Directly subsequent to the War of Independence, the constitution of the United States was always described as the Federal Constitution. *Anti-Federalists*, therefore, were the political party who opposed its adoption.—See FEDERALIST.

**ANTI-MASONRY.**—A movement precipitated by the alleged murder of Morgan by the Free Masons in 1826. Wm. H. Seward, Millard Fillmore, and Thurlow Weed were among the leaders of the ANTI-MASONS, and the party wielded power for several years.—So also its other compounds ANTI-MASON, ANTI-MASONIC.

**ANTI-MONOPOLIST.**—One who is opposed to the existence of monopolies in the commercial world, on the ground that their political influence endangers the liberty of the people. Legislators are often classified as MONOPOLISTS and *anti-monopolists*. The term has a more far-reaching significance in the States than elsewhere.

**ANTI-NEGRO.**—Opposed to the negro. This word acquired special significance at the period during which the extension of the suffrage to the negro was being agitated. The *Anti-Negro* party was a large and powerful one, on account of the inevitable swamping of the white by the colored vote in some of the States which was foreseen in the event of negro suffrage.

**ANTI-RENTERS.**—The *Anti-Rent* movement bore a conspicuous part in the politics of New York during most of the decade prior to 1847. It resulted from the attempt of the heirs of General Stephen Van Rensselaer to collect rents. Laws had been passed abolishing feudal tenures in 1779 and 1785; but the tenants of Van Rensselaer—who by courtesy was styled the "Patroon" (a title never claimed) to the end of his long and useful life—still continued to enjoy the farms upon which they lived on leases for life tenures, or from year to year. Through the indulgence of the "Patroon" these tenants were all in debt. When he died they resisted the steps taken in the settlement of his estate, to collect rents, and complained that these semi-feudal land tenures were totally inconsistent with the spirit and genius of Republican institutions. When the matter was pressed, they armed and disguised themselves as Indians, and offered such resistance to the civil officers that military interference became necessary. The Governor sent troops to quell the riotous proceedings, and the disturbances attracted national attention. The newspapers were full of the subject, it was carried into politics, and then into the courts. In the end the State constitution of New York, in 1846, abolished all feudal tenures. The leases were converted into freehold—that is the parties who had rented bought their farms, giving mortgages, and thus became freeholders instead of tenants.

**ANTI-SLAVERY.**—Opposed to slavery. Roughly-speaking, the *Anti-slavery* States were the Northern States; the Slave States being those in the South.—**ANTI-SLAVERYIST.**—A person opposed to slavery.

**ANTI-SOUTHERN.**—Opposed to Southern interests and principles.

**ANTI-UNION.**—Opposed to the Union, as represented by the Constitution of the United States.

**ANTONY OVER.**—A game of ball played by two parties of boys, on opposite sides of a school-house, over which the ball is thrown. Used in Pennsylvania. "Antony" is simply a proper name, here pressed into the service, similarly with Reynard, Robin, etc., for the same purpose. "Over" is too obvious to need explanation.

**ANXIOUS BENCH, MEETING, MOURNER, AND SEAT.**—All these are terms connected with "revivals" of religion. The *Anxious Benches* are seats set apart for the *Anxious Mourners*, in other words those who, under the magnetic influence of the preaching or singing, or may be both combined, profess to be concerned for their souls' salvation. Similarly, the *Anxious Meeting* is a service held after the ordinary one, at which spiritual advice and comfort are administered to those who so declare themselves convinced of sin. A curious illustration of the use of these terms as well as of the strangely grotesque style affected by some American divines will be found in the following extract from a sermon by the Rev. De Witt Talmage, his subject being "Sects in Heaven"—

At this moment the Methodist bigot broke in upon the excitement and demanded how many of those at the table had ever sat upon an **ANXIOUS SEAT**, declaring that those who had not been converted in that way had no business in Heaven. He brought an **ANXIOUS SEAT** with him and sat on it himself very near the table, and rudely began to eat a cluster of grapes, throwing the skins into the face of a Scotch Presbyterian, who turned out to be John Knox. The bigot had hit the wrong man, for John Knox, neither in earth



nor in heaven, was of a temperament to take any impudence, and he gave the bigot very much such a look as he once did Queen Mary at Holyrood. The Methodist bigot moved that all those banqueters who had not come into the Church militant by the ANXIOUS SEAT be put out from the feast.

**ANY.**—This, like SOME (*q.v.*), is very curiously used across the Atlantic. It is pretty generally employed in the sense of "at all." People speak of not being "angry any" or "angry some," meaning they were angry or not, as the case may be.

It was of a Wednesday in June of that year, if I remember aright, that I boarded a steamer at Memphis. I had just enough money to pay my passage to Natchez, but the fact did not worry me ANY.—*American Canoeist*, 1888.

Wasn't he hurt ANY? A little. He fell from the top of a barn; a mule kicked out two of his teeth; the corn-sheller took off a thumb-nail, and the bees punctured his anatomy right lively. But it didn't abate his evil propensity; it scarcely disturbed his serenity.—*Detroit Free Press*, Aug. 1888.

**ANYHOW.**—**ANYHOW YOU CAN FIX IT.**—A slang expression of acquiescence as, *e.g.*, "I don't know if you'll succeed, but *anyhow* you can fix it."

**ANYTHING ELSE.**—**NOT ANYTHING ELSE.**—A turgescient affirmation. In reply to a question as to whether a person did such and such a thing, the reply would be, he didn't do *anything else*; in other words, he did "just that." These remarks also apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to **NOT ANYBODY ELSE'S**, a similar form of expression.

**APAREJO.**—A pack-saddle; of Spanish extraction, and pronounced *ah-pahr-a-ho*. Western.

While the final tightening of the mules' APAREJOS was being done, our guide rode off to see if the luck had turned.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

**APISHAMORE.**—(1) All saddles for riding, as well as for carrying burdens, have an *apishamore*, or saddle-blanket, made of buffalo calf skins, with the object of protecting the animal's back from chafing. —(2) Anything to lie down on. A bed.

**APOSTLES.**—It is hardly necessary to remark that at the University of Cambridge the name is given to the last twelve on the B.A. list, and the only reason why the word should be mentioned here is that at Columbian College, D.C., the members of the Faculty are actually called after the personal names of the Apostles.

**APPETITICAL.**—Relating to the appetite. An obsolete English form is "appetitual."

**APPETIZER.**—Something to stimulate the appetite. A comparatively modern word, derived from the old English provincialism (North) "to appetize." Now as frequently heard in England as in America.

**APPLE** (West Indian).—The early settlers called all fruits *apples*. Thus we have the BEL-APPLE, CASHEW-APPLE, CUSTARD-APPLE, CONCH-APPLE, GROUND-APPLE, MAMMA-APPLE, MONKEY-APPLE, PINE-APPLE, SUGAR-APPLE, WOOD-APPLE, etc., all of which see. —**APPLE BRANDY.**—A Virginian fruit brandy sometimes flavoured with peach kernels. In New England it is known as APPLE-JACK and APPLE-JOHN, whilst in the South it is called JERSEY-LIGHTNING. Another name for it is CIDER-BRANDY. Procter says that "when good it is very good." —**APPLE BUG** (*Conotrachelus nemophar*).—Also known as the PLUM-WEEVIL, a black-beetle shaped insect which plays great havoc with fruit of all kinds, but more especially

with plums, peaches, cherries, and apples. It deposits its eggs by puncturing the fruit, causing premature decay. This insect must not be confounded with the apple-worm or the larva of the European codling moth (*Carpocapsa pomonetta*) which, however, is quite as well known in the States as the *apple-bug*.—**APPLE-BUTTER**, as it is called in Pennsylvania and Virginia (**APPLE SAUCE** in the Yankee States) is a sauce made by stewing apples in cider, six gallons of fresh juice being boiled down into one in the process. It is made in bulk and stored for future use in tubs. The occasion of its manufacture, generally forms an excuse for a frolic. Introduced by the Germans.—**APPLE-CUT**.—A social gathering for the purpose of peeling apples for drying. Also called **APPLE-PEELING** and **APPLE-BEE** (see **BEE**). This, like most gatherings of the kind, winds up with an innocent jollification in which dancing plays a prominent part.

Betsy Jane were the high stepper o' Sugar Swamp. She were put together to stay, Betsy were, an' could take in an **APPLE CUT** or huskin' bee six nights outen a week, dance till sun up an' never miss a set, an' then go hum an' eat salt pork an' 'lasses, an' apple pie fer breakfast, an' turn in an' do the washin' fer forty men th't worked in the tan'ry, jest ez easy as most gals nowadays kin thump a poky or a camp meetin' tune outen the pianny.—*Chicago Herald*.

—**APPLE-JACK**.—A popular drink distilled from fermented apple juice.

So vast is the apple harvest of North America in favourable years that there is enough and to spare of the golden fruit to make any amount of apple sass, **APPLE JACK**, cider, dried apples and biffins, and also to export millions of barrels annually to foreign lands.—*Missouri Republican*, March 5, 1888.

—**APPLEJEES**, or more correctly *Spek en Apeltjees*.—A German dish

compounded of minced fat pork and apples.—**APPLE-LEATHER**.—The sun-dried paste of partly-cooked apples. It is rolled into cakes, and, when dry, has the appearance, in thickness and toughness, of tanned leather. Common to Pennsylvania and Maryland.—**APPLE OF PERU**.—The Northern name for the **THORN APPLE** (Eng.) (*Datura stramonium*) or **JAMESTOWN WEED** (*q.v.*). It is also called the **DEVIL'S TRUMPET**. A coarse-growing troublesome weed; the seeds and stems are powerful narcotic poisons, sparingly used in medicine, in which the dried root is sometimes employed as a remedy for asthma.—**APPLE-PEELING**.—See **BEE**.—**APPLE-SLUMP**.—A pie consisting of apples, molasses, and bread crumbs, baked in a tin pan. This dish is an old favorite with New Englanders, to whom it is also known as **PANDOWDY**.—**APPLE-TODDY**.—Whisky or brandy punch, roasted apples in this case being substituted for lemon-peel.—**HOW WE APPLES SWIM!** *i.e.*, "what a good time we are having." This expression, a very old one, is synonymous with pleasurable experience coupled with brisk action.

**APPLICANT**.—Quoted by Pickering as formerly current in New England; one who studies hard—an additional meaning to the more general colloquial sense of a person who asks or applies for a thing.

**APPRECIATE, TO**.—Besides its ordinary meaning, this word has also that of an enhancement of value; to rise in value.

These improvements will **APPRECIATE** the farm immensely.—*Rural Register*.

His Pennsylvania lands have not **APPRECIATED** as he had hoped, and when he left the Cabinet he was a poor man.—*Baltimore American*, 1888.

—**APPRECIATION** is also similarly used.

**APPROBATE, To.**—To approve of anything. This, though claimed by Dr. Webster as a modern word, is quoted by Pickering as much in use in his time. Now a vulgarism in England but colloquial in the 17th century.

**ARBOR DAY.**—The observance of *Arbor Day* is a typical Western innovation, created in response to the exigencies presented in the treeless and arid West. The custom of setting aside a day for the planting of shade and ornamental trees was first inaugurated about a decade ago, in the State of Nebraska, during the administration of Governor John B. Thayer. It proved very popular from the beginning, and was soon imitated by other States, prominent among which was Colorado. Under an act of the Legislature a day was set aside each spring, to be announced by the Governor, which was to be observed as a holiday, and on which the planting of trees, accompanied with appropriate ceremonies and festivities, was to take place. The celebration of *Arbor Day* since its origination has annually grown in popularity, and is now looked forward to with a great deal of delight by young and old in the Centennial State. The result of this wise and beautiful observance, although in vogue but a few years, is manifested in innumerable young groves and millions of growing trees scattered over plains that a few years ago were barren of any cool and shading vegetation.

Governor Oglesby has designated April 13 as **ARBOR DAY** in Illinois, by official proclamation.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, March 14, 1888.

**ARCH OF ZERUBBABEL, ROYAL** (Masonic).  
—The seventh degree of the American rite.

**ARCTICS.**—Warm fur-lined foot gear, suitable for a rigorous climate.

As in tobogganing, the (ice) yachtsman's costume is appropriate to the sport. He wears a leather coat, or several cardigan jackets under a heavy pea jacket, or seal-skin; his trousers are either tied around the ankles or tucked into the legs of woollen hose; he wears linen drawers over woollen ones; **ARCTICS** are on his feet, and a fur cap is drawn down over his ears. When snow flies he wears wire goggles over his eyes and a wire covering over his mouth. Even with all these precautions he occasionally gets frost-bites, often forgetting his extremities in the excitement of the sport.—*Montreal Gazette*, 1888.

**ARD (Cant).**—Hot; a corrupted form of ardent.

**ARGUFY, To.**—A corruption of "to argue," *i.e.*, "to debate," "to discuss." It is regularly conjugated, and its participles **ARGUFIED** and **ARGUFYING** are also common.

**ARID BELT.**—A tract of country which stretches from British America on the north, to Mexico on the south, through the middle of the United States. Save in the mountain districts stock raising is almost the sole industry.

**ARISTOCRATIC.**—As might have been expected in a country whose institutions are Republican, *aristocratic* is used in a sense different from that in vogue in monarchical countries. In the United States it merely refers to those who live in better style than their neighbours; also to things of a superior quality, and does not carry with it any idea of hereditary rank or qualifications. For example, a steamboat is sometimes said, when compared with other vessels, to be *aristocratic*



because of its superiority in build, fittings, etc.

**ARK.**—A flat boat now largely superseded by steamers, used for the transportation of merchandize. Whole families live on board these craft. President Lincoln began life as a flatboatman, and those who follow this calling are, though rough in mien, as a rule, sturdy, sterling, good-natured folk enough. Roughly built of logs, about 15 ft. wide and 50 to 100 ft. long, a slight improvement on the raft, they are sold as lumber on arrival at their destination, after discharging the miscellaneous cargo which forms their freight.

**ARK AND DOVE** (Masonic).—An American illustrative degree, preparatory to the Royal Arch degree, and, when conferred at all, given immediately before the ceremony of exaltation. The name of Noachite sometimes bestowed upon it is, however, incorrect, as this belongs to the 21st degree of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, and the 35th of the Rite of Misraira. It is very probable that it was derived from an older rite, called the Royal Ark Mariner.

**ARKANSAS TOOTHPICK.**—A grimly facetious name for a folding bowie knife of large dimensions.

All these (men) irrespective of age, size, or condition in life, could be seen with a Navy six-shooter and an ARKANSAS TOOTHPICK suspended to a raw hide-belt tucked around their waists. Supplement the above equipment with a sore-backed mustang pony, an old army saddle-tree and rope bridle and you have an exact picture and entire possession of the fifteenth constitutional amendment.—*A. B. Greenleaf's Ten Years in Texas*, 1881, p. 27.

It is not good form to use a TOOTHPICK in ARKANSAS now. A big revolver is the thing in the best society.—*Detroit Free Press*, Aug. 1898.

**ARM-SHOP.**—A gun-smith's.

'I want to know where I can find an ARM-SHOP,' replied McCracken, mildly.—*Mark Twain's Screemers*.

**AROUND.**—The misuse of *around* for "near by" or "about" is sometimes very glaring, even amongst fairly educated persons in England, but it would be difficult to find such an outrageous error as the following:—

Presuming he was born AROUND three o'clock in the afternoon, he is under Leo and the Sun.—*New York Mercury*, 1888.

There was great excitement among the people who hung AROUND the hall in which the committee was in session, and the Missourians were as thick as blackberries on a bush.—*Missouri Republican*, February 24, 1888.

**ARPENT** (Fr.) or **ARPENS.**—FOR ACRE, is in use among the descendants of the old French settlers in Louisiana.

**ARRASTRA** (Spanish) from *arrastre*, a mining term. The drag-stone mill for pulverizing or amalgamating ore.

**ARRIERO** (Spanish).—The driver of a pack of mules. Texas and the West generally.

**ARROW.**—The flower of the sugarcane, previous to the appearance of which the sugar cane does not arrive at the maturity indispensable for grinding purposes. Planters never cut their canes until the *arrow* is well out.—**ARROWHEAD** (*Sagittaria variabilis*).—A well-known handsome aquatic plant with white flowers. The name is derived from the shape of the leaves; it bears the same popular appellation in some parts of England.—**ARROW-ROOT** (*Zamia integrifolia*).—A native of the West Indies, and the *arrow-*



root of commerce. The tree is largely cultivated in Florida. The tubers also contain a deadly virus, formerly much used by Indian tribes for poisoning arrow heads. —ARROW-WOOD (*Viburnum dentatum, pubescens, etc.*).—A shrubby tree peculiar to the American continent, the long straight stems of which supplied the Indians with their arrows.

**ARROYO** (Spanish).—In general use in New Mexico and California as the name for deep, rocky ravines or dry water-courses. COULEE, the French equivalent, has the same currency, and is met with quite as frequently in some States.

**ARTICHOKE** (Cant).—An aged prostitute of the lowest type.

**ARTICLES** (Cant).—A suit of clothes.

**ASCOTCH**.—A New York boy's term for gunpowder slightly damped and then worked up into pyramidal shape—the equivalent of the "fizz-gig" of English youth.

**AS GOOD AS**.—Bartlett speaks of this as an illiteracy often heard in New York in place of the colloquial "as well," *e.g.*, "I'd as good's go to New York" instead of "I might as well go to New York."

**ASH-CAKE**.—A Southern name for an ash-baked corn cake.

**ASH-CART**.—A scavenger's cart.

**ASH-HOPPER**.—A lye cask used in outlying country districts by people who make their own soap.

**ASHLANDERS**.—A political club of rowdies identified with Ashland

Square, in Baltimore, which city has been exceptionally prolific in names of this character, as BABES, PLUG-UGLIES, DEAD-RAB-BITS, BLOOD-TUBS, etc.

**AS I CAN**.—A rural New England phrase, generally tacked on to the end of a promise or assertion as a kind of prudent reservation; it is akin to the Spanish *Quien sabe*.

**ASININITY**.—A noun coined from the adjective "asinine"; a piece of egregious stupidity.

**AS LONG AS**.—A grammatical perversion for "because," "since." "That house is a desirable residence *as long as* it is well situated."

**ASSAY** (Cant).—Commence; try it. Obviously from the verb "to assay," and probably introduced by counterfeit coiners.

**ASSEMBLE TO**.—Assemble is still used in the sense—obsolete in England—of joining one thing to or with another.

The steel forgings have been made and turned over to our ordnance officers to **ASSEMBLE** into guns, with great profit to the Pennsylvania contractors.—*The Sun*, March 21, 1888.

**ASSEMBLYMEN**.—Members of the House of Representatives in New York, and in some of the New England States.

**ALBANY**, Jan 31.—Some **ASSEMBLYMEN**, especially Mr. Shea of New York and certain of his colleagues, seem to be in mortal dread of sudden death in the discharge of their duties.—*Troy Daily Times*, January 31, 1888.

**ASSENTATIOUS**.—A factitious word meaning "ready";—willing to acquiesce in all that is said and done.

**ASSIGN.**—To sign. A corruption frequently heard in the Southern States, even among educated people. Used in the sense of "to sign" a document, cheque, or letter.

**ASSISTANT.**—COURT OF ASSISTANTS.—A judicial tribunal formerly in existence in New England. In 1848 these courts were merged in the County Courts. They were presided over by a Magistrate or *Assistant* who ranked next to the Chief Magistrate, and who was *ex officio* a member of the Governor's Council.

**ASSOCIATED PRESS.**—A New York Agency somewhat similar to the Central News in London. It is composed of a number of newspapers who have combined for the purpose of collecting telegraphic and other intelligence.

**ASTERN OF THE LIGHTER.**—Failure; defeat. A phrase of nautical origin.

**AT.**—A very noticeable divergence is apparent in Transatlantic usage as regards this word. It is in effect a preposition-of-all-work, and is employed (*t*) instead of *ON* or *IN* as in *at* hill or *at* wood. In this case there is ancient sanction for the form. One of the oldest streets in the City of London is named St. Mary-at-Hill, *i.e.*, St. Mary on the Hill; and proper names like Attwood are also similarly derived.

—(2) Also used for *BY* as in "I bought that line of goods *at* auction"

—(3) for *ABOUT* or *AFTER* (*action*). In the South it rounds off almost every phrase in the vernacular of all classes except the most highly educated.—*AT*

*THAT.*—An intensive phrase tacked on to the end of an assertion or some statement already made. "He's a slick 'cute rascal, and a

pretty demon *at that*," *i.e.*, he is a rascal of rascals, an adept at villainy. It is a purely cant phrase, and has achieved a degree of popularity quite out of proportion to its merits—if any. Procter suggests that the expression is an abbreviation of "added to that."

A miner from Wadesville, was spoken of as an ancient Mollie-Cooney being actually what the detective assumed to be, and a sharp one *AT THAT.*—*Pinkerton's Mollie Maguires and Detectives.*

Kelly's the name I've always heard him called—Dan Kelly, *AT THAT*—an' sure I didn't take him for wan of those havin' occasion to dale in double names an' deceptions!—*Ibid.*

Worth a year's subscription, and cheap *AT THAT.*—*Forst and Stream*, March 15, 1883.

Who would have supposed that the self-contained Mr. French, the icily regular T. Henry French, with a disposition as undemonstrative as the Alpine edelweiss, would suffer his temper to go away because of the loss of a hat—aye, and of an old hat, *AT THAT.*—*New York Herald*, July 22, 1888.

**ATAJO** (Spanish).—This, with a number of other words of Mexico-Spanish origin, is current in the States bordering on the old Spanish Dominions. *Atajo* signifies a drove of pack-mules.

**ATAMASCO LILY** (*Amaryllis* or *Zephyranthes atamasco*).—A common wild lily with narrow grass-like leaves and profuse pink flowers, similar to a crocus. It flourishes in and is a native of Virginia and South Carolina, and in the cottage gardens of those States it is known by the name of the FAIRY LILY. There are several varieties of this plant which is the only representative in America of the natural order *Amaryllidaceæ*.

**"A" TENT.**—The simplest form of tent made. Also called *WEDGE TENT* (*q.v.*). Similar in shape to the *tente d'abri* as used in the French

army. Its name accurately distinguishes it from the bell or wall tent.

Three wall tents in a line indicated where the officers and the visitors slept, and twice as many "A," or "wedge," or common tents, twenty or thirty yards away, showed where the men were sheltered.—*Century Magazine*, 1888.

**ATER, ARTER.**—After. A New England vulgarism, not at all uncommon. The pure Yankee curiously misplaces his "r's" and even omits them where they ought to be heard. With him this letter is subjected to as many indignities as the letter "h" is among uneducated people in England.

**ATHENS OF AMERICA OR ATHENS OF THE NEW WORLD.**—Boston. Also called **THE HUB**, the **CLASSIC CITY**, etc. Boston, perhaps more than any other city in the Union, has been the subject of a variety of nicknames. Undoubtedly the centre of modern culture in America, the name **CLASSIC CITY** has been awarded her in envious derision, although some sarcastically affirm that the cognomen is self-given, and with John Randolph assert that it is "an Athens without Athenians." Others have styled it the **CITY OF NOTIONS**, a reference alike to the commercial and mental aptitude of its citizens. Oliver Wendell Holmes, himself one of the most gifted of her sons, dubbed the city **THE HUB OF THE UNIVERSE**, and this has become by far the most popular of her nicknames. Historically the oldest appellation is that which still survives in the famous Tremont Street and Tremont House, Boston having formerly been styled the **TRI-MOUNTAIN CITY**, from the fact of its being built upon three hills.

**ATLANTIC STATES.**—The States immediately contiguous to the Atlantic.

**ATOLE** (Spanish).—Gruel made from corn-meal; common in those districts once under Spanish rule.

**ATOMY** (Cant).—An empty-headed person; in English cant a deformed or diminutive individual.

**A-TREMBLE.**—The old Anglo-Saxon prefix *A*, meaning **AT**, **TO**, **IN**, **ON**, is more generally retained in the States than in the Mother Country. The meaning of the word is not affected.

**ATTACKTED.**—Merely a colloquial vulgarism for "attacked," but very common amongst the illiterate.

**ATTITUDINIZE, TO.**—This is given in Worcester as an ordinary dictionary word, but by no other authority. An American creation, meaning to assume a posture, and, metaphorically, a mental state, the idea of grotesqueness also being understood.

**ATTLEBOROUGH.**—Sham jewelry; used in precisely the same manner as "Brummagem," and as widely applied to men and things. It has now passed from the classics of thieftom into general use, and is applied to anything of a sham, pinchbeck, insincere, or doubtful character. Attleborough is a town celebrated for its manufacture of sham jewelry.

**AUGER.**—A person given to prosinness is so called; a bore.

**AUNARUGIANS.**—A local body of students at Centre College, Kentucky, was known by this name. A wild and boisterous band, who indulged



in the roughest horseplay, emulating the CALLITHUMPIANS and CHARIVARI (*q.v.*) of other localities.

**AUNT.**—A familiar name often given in the States and West Indies to negresses advancing in age.

**AUNTY EXTENSION.**—The war originated a great many new phrases in the imaginative South—far more if they were all recorded than in the North. "Cousin Sal" is pretty generally lamented throughout the South as the deceased and only daughter of our very worthy and revered Uncle Sam—the same having been begotten by him in the bonds of lawful wedlock with *Aunty Extension*.

**AU RESERVOIR.**—*Auervoir*. A mere play upon sounds. Common, and now often heard in England.

**AUTHORESS.**—Though first coined in America, this has now become a genuine language word; not, however, without a struggle. The objections and prejudice to similar words, such as poetess and brokeress, are still very numerous and strong.

**AVAIL, To.**—To use this verb actively as now is frequently done instead of reflectively, borders upon jargon; thus, people speak of *availing* of an offer or opportunity.

**AVAILS.**—A New Englandism including the proceeds of a sale, the rents received for property, or the profits of a speculation. Literally, that which is *available* for use after all expenses are defrayed. James Russell Lowell in one of his prefaces to the *Biglow Papers*, affirms that the word is intimately related with the vails given to servants.

**AVALANCHE.**—A corruption of "ambulance," much used in Texas and the outlying territories. It is said to have caused no small merriment in the Confederate camp, when Prince Polignac was sent to hold an obscure command in the Southwest, and once showed very great excitement upon being informed by a sergeant that the "*avalanche*" was just coming down the hill as fast as fury."

**AVOCADO PEAR** (*Laurus persea gratisima*).—A buttryceous pear-shaped fruit, the pulp of which is much esteemed. Vulgarly termed the ALLIGATOR PEAR (*q.v.*).

**AVOIRDUPOIS.**—SOLID AVOIRDUPOIS.—Thus, "She sat close by Mrs. Desbrough, a woman of *solid avoirdupois*," *i.e.*, of gross fleshy tissue; stout; inclined to embonpoint.

**AWFUL.**—A hard-worked adjective which, in addition to its ordinary signification, is almost universally weighted with such meanings as—(1) Very, and—(2) Ugly, unpleasant, and distasteful. Though inexcusable to ears polite, its use in this sense is very old, and was in past times a colloquialism often heard north of the Tweed. If people could now and then be placed where (themselves unseen) they were obliged to listen to a half-hour's conversation about nothing at all, and hear these poor adjectives forced into a conspicuous position in every sentence and on every topic of conversation—their real meaning and legitimate use being entirely disregarded—it might result in their own reformation, and they might feel, like the poet at Delmonico's, who listened to the conversation of a charming little lady and her dapper little



beau, where every other word was *awful*.

"I confess it sorely puzzled me to think what they *could* say, If something really *awful* were to happen in their way ;

For I'm sure with simple English they could never be content, But their thoughts in foreign expletives would have to find a vent.

"While musing in this fashion (feeling rather cross and old),

I forgot about my dinner, which was getting *awful* cold ;

And the adjective kept dropping from the lips of either child,

Till with *awful, awful, awful*, I was driven fairly wild."

**Ax, To.**—To ask or make a request.

This form of the verb has descended unmutated from Anglo-Saxon times, and is still a provincialism in some parts of England.

**AXE.**—AN AXE TO GRIND.—A much-used phrase of political origin. Men are said to have *axes to grind* when suspected of selfish or interested motives. From politics the expression has passed into use among all classes of society. *The Chicago Daily Inter-Ocean* (Feb. 1888) spoke of certain politicians as "men with *axes to grind*." What we believe is right is more often so because it *grinds our axe* than otherwise.





**ABE.**—(1) A term of little wit or point applied to the youngest member of a class at the West Point (United States) Military College. In the English Parliament, the same name is given to the last elected member of the House, just as the oldest member is called the "father" of the House.—(2)—*pl.* A Baltimore term for a noisy set of rowdies.

**BACH, To.**—To live as a bachelor.

'Lonesome? Well, not particularly.' He had always **BACHED** it. Next winter his nephew was coming to live with him.—*Century Magazine*, 1888.

**BACK, To.**—From the Western use of this verb in the sense of "to direct," when relating to documents and letters, is derived the frequently-heard commercial phrase of *to back*, in the sense of "to endorse," literally, to write on the back of a letter, bill, or cheque.—To **GO BACK** or **ABACK** is a term peculiar to Demerara. The manager of an estate or sugar plantation usually *goes aback* once every day. This does not exactly mean that he gets astride a horse or mule, although that, as a matter of fact, is ordinarily his means of locomotion. It refers to a daily inspection of the cane-pieces or fields and other appurtenances which almost invariably lie to the rear of his residence, the houses in British Guiana being

always built as near as possible to the coast in order to obtain the full benefit of the sea breezes.—To **BACK DOWN**.—To beat a retreat; to yield. Authorities differ as to whether the phrase originated in the stable or was taken from steam-boat phraseology. Those holding the latter view maintain that it is simply the antithesis of "going a-head." Be that as it may, however, this suggestive expression is of Western origin. A similar meaning is given to the word when used as a noun. A **SQUARE BACK DOWN** is, therefore, a severe rebuff, or, it may be, utter collapse. Thus, in reference to a large strike of railway men it is said that—

To-day's developments are looked upon as a **SQUARE BACK DOWN** for the men. Chairman John L. Lee hurried home from Washington, while John H. Davis and Hugh McGarvey, strike leaders, started on a Western trip. To-day 400 loaded coal cars left the regions, a larger number than any other day since the strike.—*Cleveland Leader*, 1888.

—To **BACK OUT** is to abandon one's position, or to retreat from a difficulty. Sometimes to **BACK DOWN** (*q.v.*). The expression is also varied with to **TAKE THE BACK TRACK**, or **TO BACK WATER**.

Mr. Barker's **BACK-OUT** has not much surprised me, though I doubt not that some of the readers of the *Weekly Herald* will be much surprised indeed.—*Boston Weekly Globe*, March 28, 1888.

**BACK.**—DON'T GET YOUR BACK UP!—There is, of course, little that is distinctively American in the idea

of putting one's back up when inclined to be angry; but as a street catch phrase, at one time very popular, it claims a place.

—**TO BREAK ONE'S BACK.**—To be crushed; defeated; to become bankrupt. A Californianism which has spread over the whole Union and the Mother Country. —**BACK!** —A cowboy's equivalent for "gee!" —*See CALLS OF ANIMALS.*

**BACK AND FORTH.**—Backward and forward. A New England Puritan survival.

**BACK AND HIDDEN.**—That which is secret, or kept back. A common colloquialism.

Mr. Clark had heard a great deal about something **BACK AND HIDDEN**. He didn't give a — fiddler's malediction for Jay Gould or any other man. —*Missouri Republican*, Feb. 22, 1888.

**BACKBONE.**—**TO HAVE BACK-BONE** is to possess weight of character, to be steady of purpose, and firm in carrying one's ideas into effect. The metaphor is now common wherever the English language is spoken, but in the first instance it is believed to have been introduced by the Abolitionists in the stormy days just "before the War."

**BACK CAP.**—**TO GIVE A BACK-CAP** is thieves' argot, meaning to expose one's past life. A pretended converted thief is made to say:—

i told him all about my being in prison and about you, and how i had almost done giving up looking for work and how the Lord got me the job when i asked him . . . and then i felt better than ever i had done in my life, for i had given Mr. Brown a fair start with me and now i didn't fear no one **GIVING ME A BACK-CAP** and running me off the job. —*Mark Twain's Life on the Mississippi*, p. 462.

**BACK COUNTRY.**—Thinly populated districts are so called. The ever

advancing tide of emigration from east to west, has naturally caused this term to partake of a nomadic character as far as locality is concerned. The sparsely peopled *back country* of one decade, with its primitive, simple folk and cheap living, becomes the teeming centre of a busy, thriving population in the next. In a few years there will be no *back country* left between the two great oceans, so rapidly is all the available land being taken up and settled in the great Republic of the West.

San Diego has a **BACK COUNTRY**, a fine, productive **BACK COUNTRY**, lying among rocks, on steep hillsides and in level valleys. —*Detroit Free Press*, May, 1888.

**BACK-END.**—Lately; towards the end. A quaint manner of speech.

Hanover (a horse) did not do very well the **BACK-END**, and was twice beaten by Laggard. Therefore the latter ought to be required to carry at least seven pounds more. —*Chicago Inter-Ocean*, 1888.

**BACK HOUSE.**—A privy.

**BACKING AND FILLING.**—A *backing and filling* policy is one that is trifling and irresolute. Thus the shilly-shally and *backing and filling* policy of the third George led to the War of Independence and the subsequent separation of the American colonies from the Mother Country.

**BACK-LOG.**—A large piece of wood forming the back-stay of a log fire. These are only seen in districts where wood is plentiful and largely used as fuel.

**BACK SALARY GRAB.**—During the 42nd Congress, 1871-73, a bill was passed to increase the salaries of the Executive, and of Senators and Representatives. The popularly



obnoxious feature of this Act was, that it gave *back-pay* for the entire Session, to the very men who had the measure under consideration, and eventually voted upon it. Such a howl of indignation went up from the whole country, that the Act was repealed, save in the executive clauses, and many of the offending members paid back into the treasury the money which they had drawn.

**BACK SEAT.**—TO TAKE A BACK SEAT is, figuratively, to retire into obscurity; it also sometimes implies a silent confession of failure; an inability to accomplish what one has attempted. The colloquialism has gained a world-wide currency; it received an immense send off, as the Americans say, from Andrew Johnson's famous "*back seat* in Reconstruction."

Who will say the Britishers are not a forbearing and forgiving race, and the inhabitants of Stratford-on-Avon don't by any means take a BACK SEAT in that line? Ignatius Donnelly actually visited the birthplace of Shakespeare, and wasn't lynched! Far from it, he was hospitably received and entertained.—*Texas Siftings*, 1888.

We of Jeff City are noted for never knowing anything, or, at any rate, for not saying anything after we have secured what we consider our full share of political favors. Since Clay Ewing stepped out of the race for the supreme bench, Jefferson City has taken a BACK SEAT.—*Speech of J. W. Beverley, of Jefferson City, in Missouri Republican*, April 1, 1888.

**BACK TALK.**—No BACK TALK!—A slang catch phrase indicating that the matter in question is closed to discussion; there's nothing more to be said.

**BACK TEETH.**—TO HAVE ONE'S BACK TEETH WELL AFLOAT.—A facetiously brutal way of implying that the subject of such a remark is well primed with liquor—even to the verge of drunkenness.

When sober on the bench Judge Noonan is a model of all the virtues. On Friday night, however, in company with Dr. Munford, of Kansas City, ex-Speaker Wood, Mr. Charles Mead and several other gentlemen, his honor once more drank until, as an on-looker put it, his BACK TEETH WERE WELL AFLOAT.—*Missouri Republican*, Jan. 25, 1888.

**BACKWARD.**—Bashful, retiring, or diffident. The antithesis of what, in England, is called "forward," when applied to children.

**BACKWOODS.**—The unsettled, un-cleared portion of a country. The *backwoods* of the United States are rapidly disappearing, even if, practically, they have not already done so. Formerly, the whole country back of the Atlantic littoral was included in the term; now, however, the limit of civilization is no longer bounded by the sea-board States, and, in one sense of the word, at least, the term is now a misnomer. Used, however, as synonymous with a backward state of civilization, sparse population, and indifferent means of transit, it still applies to a certain portion of the country. This will not long be the case, for nothing has been more remarkable than the rapidity with which, during the past twenty years, State after State and Territory after Territory have entered and become part of the all-absorbing Union. More especially has this been the case since the Grand Pacific formed a connecting link between the Atlantic and Pacific sea-boards. Many American writers have dealt with the life of the old *backwoods'* days, but no pictures of backwoodsmen are more graphically drawn than those of Mark Twain and Bret Harte.—**BACKWOODS PREACHER.**—One whose clerical functions were exercised in the wild, unsettled portions of the country or BACKWOODS. His temple was more often than not "one not made with



hands,"—a church whose roof was the blue vault of Heaven—its altar a tree stump, and its aisles the forest groves.

**BACON.**—To SAVE ONE'S BACON.—To effect one's escape from danger.

**BAD.**—Procter with some show of reason draws attention to the very marked divergence which exists in one respect between English and American usage as regards the word "good" in the sense of well and happy. He is, however, utterly wrong in putting *bad* for ill or badly in the same category. He says "I feel *bad* is not, in America, an admission of moral depravity, but means simply I don't feel well." In this sense *bad* is as common to England as to America.—See GOOD.

—A BAD CROWD GENERALLY is, in Western parlance, a set of people not thought much of—merely what in England would be regarded as "no great shakes."—BAD MAN.

—A *bad man*, in the West, is a somewhat mixed character. The term is generally understood to mean a professional fighter or man-killer, but who, despite this drawback, is said by Roosevelt in *Ranch Life in the Far West*, to be sometimes, according to his light, perfectly honest. These are the men who do most of the killing in frontier communities; yet it is a noteworthy fact that the men who are killed generally deserve their fate. These men are, of course, used to brawling, and are not only sure shots, but, what is equally important, able to "draw" their weapons with marvellous quickness. They think nothing whatever of murder, and are the dread and terror of their associates; yet they are very chary of taking the life of a man of good standing, and will

often "weaken" and "backdown" at once if confronted fearlessly. With many of them, their courage arises from confidence in their own powers and knowledge of the fear in which they are held; and men of this type often show the white feather when they get into a "tight place." Others, however, will face any odds without flinching, and when mortally wounded, have been known to fight with a cool, ferocious despair that was terrible. During the last two or three years, stockmen have united to put down these dangerous characters, often by the most summary exercise of lynch law; and, as a consequence, many localities once infested by *bad men* are now perfectly law-abiding.

**BAD EGG.**—A Californianism for a worthless speculation.

**BADGER.**—In the cant language of the American criminal classes a *badger* or *PANEL THIEF* is one who robs a man after a woman accomplice has enticed the victim into her den. In old English cant *badgers* were river thieves, and in modern English slang TO *BADGER* is to tease; to annoy; in which sense it is also concurrently used in the States.

**BADGER STATE.**—A popular name for the State of Wisconsin, and so called because of the *BADGERS* which once abounded there.

**BAD LANDS.**—The *Mauvaises Terres* of the early French settlers in the districts west of the Missouri, and applied by them generically to the jagged, sterile, alkali hills which abound in that part of the country. The phrase is now applicable to any stretch of specially rough land. The French name still

answers in the corruption "Movey Star" of some localities.

**BAGASSE**, or, as in the West Indies, **MEGASSE**; both of French derivation. The refuse of the sugar cane, which, after passing through the mill and the expression of the juice, goes to the furnace for use as fuel. Formerly, the *bagasse* was either burned in a furnace to get rid of it, or thrown out on the *LEVEES* (*q.v.*) to help fight off the river from eating away the bank. Now every economically managed mill burns it to make steam, by the aid of the draught of an enormous chimney. The best method is to burn it on grates under which air is forced by a blower.

When they have finished grinding the cane, they form the refuse of the stalks (which they call *BAGASSE*) into great piles and set fire to them, though in other sugar countries the *BAGASSE* is used for fuel in the furnaces of the sugar mills. Now the piles of damp *BAGASSE* burn slowly, and smoke like Satan's own kitchen.—*Mark Twain's Life on the Mississippi*.

**BAGGAGE**.—A railway term equivalent to the English "luggage." The van in which *impedimenta* of this kind is carried is called a **BAGGAGE-CAR** in place of, as in England, a luggage, goods, or guards van. The attendant in charge is called the **BAGGAGE-MASTER**, and by a most perfect system of **BAGGAGE-CHECKS** issued at the commencement of a journey, the traveller is relieved of all further anxiety or trouble concerning his belongings, whether the journey lasts six hours or six days. On arrival at his destination he may either claim his *baggage* forthwith, or, giving instructions to the agent, the company will deliver it at his hotel or residence, the counterfoil of the check being given up on delivery. Until this is done the company assume all responsibility.

In this way the Americans manage very largely to mitigate the inconveniences and annoyances of travel, and the system adopted, though simple, is thoroughly effective. An approach to it has been recently introduced on the London Brighton and South Coast Railway, the main difference being that the checks are of paper instead of brass labels with straps to attach them to the trunks and other packages—a plan which, in the rough handling of trans-continental travel in America, is preferable to pasted labels. The porter employed to handle and transfer passengers' *baggage* is facetiously and commonly called a **BAGGAGE-SMASHER**, and it must be confessed that in many cases he fully justifies his right to the title by the reckless and careless manner in which he performs his duties. From this special application of the term it has generally passed into everyday speech as signifying a coarse and brutal person.

**BAGGED** (Cant).—A term used to signify imprisonment and victimization—probably only an extension of the idea of capture as derived from sport, through the slang "to bag," *i.e.*, to steal.

**BAGGING**.—Specially applied in the States to the coarse hempen canvas of which cotton packages are made. This material is chiefly manufactured in Kentucky.

**BAG OF NAILS** (Cant).—A state of confusion or topsy-turveydom.

**BAIL**.—A pail or bucket handle. This is given in *Forby's Glossary* as a Norfolk provincialism, and its present use in New England must, therefore, be considered as a survival of the old Puritan days.

**BAILE.**—A Spanish term (corrupted into "bailee" among cow-boys) for a ball or dance, but it means also sheriff bailiff, which is significant. The connection between balls and bailiffs in New Mexico is, unfortunately, more intimate and frequent than would be thought desirable in Boston or New York.

**BAIT.**—In New England a *bait* is the means by which a leverage is obtained; a fulcrum.

**BAITING.**—Amongst haymakers this is the name given to a snack taken in the fields between breakfast and dinner.

**BAKE-OVEN.**—This form for oven is of Dutch origin, and is mostly used out West.

**BAKER (Cant).**—A loafer.

**BAKES (Cant).**—A schoolboy.

**BAKE-SHOP.**—A baker's shop. An example occurs in the foreign intelligence of a Maine paper.

A large number of unemployed working men engaged in a riot in Rome, Thursday. **BAKE-SHOPS** were broken into and pillaged, and the police, who attempted to arrest the rioters, were driven away with stones. Finally the mob was dispersed by troops, and many of the rioters were arrested.—*Portland Transcript*, March 7, 1888.

**BALANCE.**—In the sense of rest, remainder, or residue, *balance*, says R. G. White, is an abomination. The *balance* is the difference between two sides of an account—the amount of which is necessary to make the one equal to the other. It is not the rest or the remainder, yet we continually hear of the *balance* of this or that thing. This vulgarism is also very common in England.

In the trial of Dave Walker, the Bald Knobber chief, at Ozark, Mo., the State closed its testimony to-day, after introducing witnesses to re-affirm that Walker said, 'If I can get some one to take my son out of the country I will take some of the men and go back and kill the **BALANCE** and burn the house. Dead men tell no tales.'—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, April 12, 1888

I recognize the sum of 30,000 dollars to belong to me individually, that amount having been received from the estate of my father and by donation from my mother. All the **BALANCE**, movable and immovable, real and personal, rights and credits, belongs to the community existing between myself and wife.—*St. Louis Times Democrat*, Feb. 21, 1888.

**BALD-EAGLE.**—De Vere says, "The oft-quoted *bald-eagle* (*Haliaetus leucocephalus*) or **BALDHEADED EAGLE** and **WHITEHEADED EAGLE** are only spurious book-names, and perhaps on this account the poor bird has so readily been adopted as the emblem of the United States. He does not seem to have always kept good company, for Richard Frame spoke already in 1692 of 'The turkey-buzzard and the *bald-eagle* high, wild ducks, which in great companies do fly'; and Benjamin Franklin wrote almost plaintively, 'For my part, I wish the *bald-eagle* had not been chosen as the representative of our country.'"

**BALDFACE.**—A villainous compound which only by courtesy can be recognised as whiskey. Many other slang names are given to bad and common spirit of this kind; e.g., "red eye," "pine top," "lightning whiskey," or as the latter is more jocosely named "forty rod lightning," it being guaranteed to kill at forty rods.

**BALD-FACED SHIRT.**—The name by which a Western cowboy knows a white shirt. It is thought to come from the fact of Hereford cattle having white faces.



**BALDHEADED.**—To GO IT BALDHEADED. —With eager impetuosity or great haste; doing a thing with all one's might and main. A suggestion of action without stopping to cover one's head, *i.e.*, on the spur of the moment.

It ain't by princples nor men  
My preudent course is steadied,—  
I scent wich pays the best, an' then  
Go into it BALDHEADED.  
—*The Biglow Papers.*

The Chicago Republicans, to use an Americanism, have gone BALDHEADED for protection. If shouting could win a Presidential contest, Blaine and Protection would be certain.—*Fall Mall Gazette*, June 22, 1888.

—A somewhat different meaning is conveyed by SNATCHED BALD-HEADED, used of a person defeated in a street fight.

**BALD-HEADED ROW.**—The first row of stalls at theatres, especially those which make a feature of ballets. The term is a cynical allusion to the fact that these seats are generally occupied by men of mature age; the inuendo is obvious.

**BALDITUDE.**—A state of baldness.

Trouble has done it, Bilgewater, trouble has done it; trouble has brung these gray hairs and this premature BALDITUDE.—*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, p. 187.

**BALD-KNOBBERS.**—A lawless band of ruffians infesting Christian County, Missouri. They seem to hold regular meetings and to be well organized, for in a trial of one of their number for murder it was given in evidence that the ceremony of initiation comprised the administration of various oaths. A rope round the neck and a pistol to the breast of the candidate added weight to the rubric of the order. The initiate is informed that there are but two ways out of the order; one at the end of a rope and

the other at the muzzle of a shotgun. Death is the penalty for revealing any of the secrets of the order.

**BALDY.**—A colloquial vulgarism for a bald-headed man.

**BALK, To.**—Sometimes BAULK. In England *to balk* means to frustrate expectation; to disappoint; and has no reference to a jibbing horse or mule, the sense in which it is used in America. Spencer in his "Faërie Queen" (the legend of Sir Artegal, v. 10.) uses *to balk* in a somewhat similar sense.

Gentleman (to Uncle Rustus, who is troubled with a BALKY mule)—'Uncle Rustus, do you think kicking that mule in the stomach will make him go?'

Uncle Rustus—'Da haint muffin wot'll make dat mule go when he 'clude not to, sah. I'm only kickin' him fo' my own satisfaction.—*The Brainerd* (Min.) *Tribune*, 1838.

—Hence also the adjective BALKY with a similar meaning.

**BALL FACE.**—A contemptuous epithet applied by negroes to white persons. Salem, Mass., 1810-1820.

**BALLOONING.**—Inflating the price of stocks by fictitious means, such as newspaper articles, bogus sales, etc. A Wall Street phrase.

**BALLOT-BOX STUFFING.**—Originally practised in New York, where boxes were constructed with false bottoms so that an unlimited number of spurious ballots could be introduced by the party having control of the polling place. By mutual consent of parties this is now almost impossible.

As to the election having been stolen by BALLOT-BOX STUFFING and bribery in New York, the allegation shows silly ignorance of the conduct of elections in New York. BALLOT-BOX STUFFING is an almost obsolete



form of knavery in New York under its election system.—*Fostoria Democrat*, March 8, 1883.

**BALLS** (Cant).—Prison rations; also a drink.

**BALL UP** (College).—At Middlebury College. To fail at recitation or examination.—*Hall's College Words and Customs*.

**BALLYHACK**.—GO TO BALLYHACK.—Bartlett quotes this as common in New England, but confesses his ignorance as to its meaning and origin. Of Irish birth it is equivalent to our own "Go to Bath" "Go to Hull" (corrupted into "Go to Hell")—all of them peremptory injunctions for "Begone!"

**BALLYRAG, TO**.—To scold or accuse in scurrilous language. In use all over England. From A.S. *bealn* evil, and *wreġan* to accuse. A milder signification is sometimes given, viz. "to banter in a contemptuous way."

**BALM OF GILEAD** (*Populus caudicans*).—A well-known tree rarely met with wild, but largely cultivated in the Eastern States, more especially in New England.

'Ezra,' says I, 'if you git time, just run over to the edge o' my pasture and get me a handful o' BALM o' GILEAD buds. I want to put 'em in a half a pint o' new rum for Mis' Crosby, and there ain't a soul to send.'—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

**BALSAM FIR** (*Abies balsamea*).—This tree, which is of slender growth, delights in cold marshy spots. It produces the well-known CANADA BALSAM, the resinous matter being obtained from blisters beneath the bark.

**BALSAM POPLAR** (*Populus balsamifera*).—A common name derived from

the fragrance exhaled by its unfolding leaves and expanding catkins. It is a native of New England and extends from Wisconsin northwards. Its resinous buds do not, however, yield in sufficient quantities to render the product commercially valuable.

**BALTIMORE ORIOLE** (*Icterus baltimore*).

—Large numbers of these birds are found near the City of Baltimore, hence the name. The American species is deeper and richer in colour than the European, the pale yellow of the latter being replaced by a brilliant orange. A peculiar hanging nest has also given rise to its other popular name of the HANG-BIRD.

**BAM**.—A jocular imposition; the same as a humbug. Old Cant, compare with the following.

**BAMBOO, TO**.—A corruption of "bamboozle." To cheat; to victimize. According to Wright "to bam" with the same meaning is an English provincialism.

**BAMBOO BRIARS** otherwise BULL BRIARS.—A farinaceous root which the Indians of the South-west use largely for food. In rich alluvial soil it attains a vigorous growth and in size and appearance is not unlike the BAMBOO, hence its name.

**BAMBSQUABBLED**.—This coined word, which is, however, rarely used except in humorous writings, first saw the light in *The Legend of the American War*. It signifies discomfiture and defeat, or stupefaction; sometimes written BUM-SQUABBLED.

The judge said, 'He had got too much already, cut him off the other two-thirds, and make him pay all costs.' If he

didn't look BUMSQUABBLED it's a pity.—*Sam Slick's Clockmaker*, Sermon II., chap. XI.

**BANANA** (*Musa sapientum*).—A well-known tropical fruit, largely grown in the West Indies, where it and its kinsman, the plantain (*Musa paradisiaca*) are the chief staples of the food supply. The fruit is largely exported to the States.

**BAND**.—A prairie and Californian term for large numbers of sheep, cattle, buffaloes, etc.

**BANDANNA**.—A special kind of red speckled handkerchief. The word *bandanna* comes from the Hindustani, and signifies a mode of dyeing in which hard knots are tied in the cloth before it is dipped. When these are opened the fabric has a speckled appearance, the dye having left the tied parts free from colour.

**BANDED DRUM** (Genus *Pogonias* Cuvier).—Also popularly called the GRUNTER, GRUNTS, and YOUNG SHEEPSKIN. A fish found in Atlantic waters south of New York.

**BANDED GARFISH** (*Belone truncata*).—A slender spear-headed fish of a genus common to both hemispheres. This species frequents the coast, and is also popularly known as the BILL-FISH.

**BANDERO** (Cant).—Widow's weeds.

**BANG**.—A style adopted by women in dressing the hair upon the forehead, generally curled and frizzed, the process being thus described. To make the *bang*, you must begin by dividing your front hair at half-inch distances from ear to ear combing the rest back. This is repeated until the whole front hair has been successfully BANGED.

BANG, Sister, BANG with care;  
If your poker's too hot you'll lose your hair.

—*Detroit Free Press*, 1888.

**BANGER** (College).—A club-like cane or stick; a bludgeon. This word is one of the Yale vocabularies.—*Hall's College Words and Customs*.

The Freshman reluctantly turned the key,  
Expecting a Sophomore gang to see,  
Who, with faces masked and BANGERS stout,  
Had come resolved to smoke him out.  
—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, vol. XX., p. 75.

**BANGO**!—A negro expletive, without any special meaning, except one of general pleasure. It is frequently heard, and is common to the black race throughout the States and the West Indies.

**BANG UP**.—First-rate. A *bang up* song.

The trouble with almost all the ministers is that they don't hear other ministers preach often enough to know what a really first-class, BANG UP sermon is.—*Somerville Journal*, 1888.

**BANJO**.—A musical instrument almost exclusively associated with negro minstrelsy, and the name is doubtless a negro corruption of "bandore," itself descended from the Greek, *πανδοῦρα* supposed to have been invented by Pan. Thomas Jefferson, in his *Notes on Virginia*, describes the instrument as peculiar to the Blacks, which they brought from Africa, and which is the original of the guitar, its chords being precisely the four lower chords of the guitar.

Niggers go to Alabama with their BANJOs on their knees.—*Southern Life*, p. 66.

'Twas the finest place for miles around  
And ole galls wouldn't all come down.  
And they'd so light on every night  
To the old BANJO's sweet sound.

The fiddle there, and den de bones,  
And de merry tambourine,  
Oh, wish dat I could see again  
De ole plantation green.  
—*Negro Melody.*

**BANK-BILL.**—This is the name by which Bank of England notes are generally known throughout the States. Here, by a *bank-bill*, a bill of exchange is usually understood.

**BANKER.**—A vessel engaged in the Newfoundland cod-fisheries, hence its name. Those who man these boats are capable seamen and inured to hardship; and the industry is of high value commercially. Of a very different character are the *bankers* of North Carolina, men dwelling on banks and who once possessed an unenviable reputation as wreckers. Their descendants, mainly engaged in farming and fishing, are still open to the suspicion of similar practices when opportunity serves.

**BANKIT.**—A corruption of the French *BANQUETTE* (*q.v.*). A footpath or sidewalk. Rarely heard.

**BANKRUPTED.**—A perversion of language for *BECOME BANKRUPT*.

Manitoba has been well-nigh *BANKRUPTED* by crooked financiering. Her possessions consist of little more than a bad reputation and an over-stock of cold waves.  
—*Philadelphia Press*, Jan. 29, 1888.

**BANK SHAVING.**—Before banks were regulated by Act of Congress, a practice prevailed among the least reputable of such institutions of purchasing notes of hand and similar documents at enormously usurious rates of discount. Many were the facilities for sharp practice of every kind. Such banks were called *shaving banks*, and the unfortunate wretch who thus

"raised the wind" was said to *GET HIS PAPER SHAVED*. The origin of the phrase may be looked for in maritime nomenclature, a shaver from a sailor's point of view being a man who is cute and unscrupulous—possibly from the unpleasant operation of shaving on board ship when crossing the line.

**BANK SNEAK.**—A bank thief.

Buffalo officers to-day picked out from a batch of Erie convicts Watt N. Jones, the notorious *BANK SNEAK* and burglar so widely known professionally in every city of the United States and Canada.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, February 16, 1888.

**BANQUETTE.**—A side-walk or foot-path; common in Louisiana and other parts originally settled by the French.

**BANTER.**—In addition to the ordinary meaning of "raillery" and "friendly jocularly," this word, in the South and West, conveys the idea of "to challenge."

**BANTY.**—Cant for saucy; impudent.

**B'AR.**—The popular pronunciation in the South and West for "bear," and commonly written *b'ar*. In *BARSMEAT*, the sign of elision is omitted.

I went on, larning something every day, until I was reckoned a buster, and allowed to be the best *B'AR-HUNTER* in my district.—*Thorpe's Big Bear of Arkansas*.

**BAR (Cant).**—*BAR THAT TOSS, i.e., stop that game.*—*TO BAR.*—A spurious verb, the signification of which is derived from the drinking-bar. Thus a tippler is said to *bar* too much when given to inordinate drinking.

**BARBARY COAST.**—The Chinese quarter of San Francisco.



**BARBECUE** (Spanish *barbacôa*, French *barbe-à-queue*).—To cook a large animal whole, over an open fire. The French derivation suggests that the goat, from head to tail—*barbe-à-queue*—was the first victim of this species of cookery. The *barbecue* was formerly a conspicuous feature of political meetings, and is still common in the South and West (See *BURGOO*). Latterly it has re-appeared in New York State, a genuine *barbecue* having been held in Brooklyn.

There were killed in the corral 2,000 and 1,000 killed in the drive and outside. The drive was followed by a *BARBECUE*.—*San Francisco Weekly Examiner*, March 22nd, 1888.

**BARBER**.—A Canadian backwoods term for a kind of blizzard, the precise nature of which may be explained as follows. The cold wind from the far north comes down across the track of a warm wind, its motion fearfully accelerated; the moisture is instantly condensed to powdery snow, in some instances as sharp as fragments of steel, and in the blinding cloud the benumbed traveller is hopelessly lost. When the vapour is so suddenly condensed as to form sharp spicules, the Canadian voyageurs call it the *barber*, as it cuts the face like a razor. Unfortunately this is about all that is known of the blizzard; to foretell its coming or forecast its course are alike impossible. There have not been observations enough.

**BARBERIZE, To**.—To follow the occupation of a barber.

**BAREFOOTED ON THE TOP OF ONE'S HEAD**.—Bald-headed. The application of the simile is obvious.

**BARELY TOLERABLE**.—This phrase, when used in reference to the health, signifies indifferent.

**BARFOOT**.—A Western expression. To take tea or any kind of food *barfoot* (barefooted) is to take the former without sugar or milk, or the latter without condiments, or as would be said, "fixin's" of any kind. James Russell Lowell has observed that a similar phrase occurs in the old English Coventry plays.

Avoid sugar as much as conveniently possible, and drink sparingly. Never touch coffee unless you like it *BAREFOOT*, that is, without sugar or milk.—*Chicago Herald*, 1888.

**BARGE**.—The *barge* of the Mississippi and other large rivers is a very different vessel, both as regards size and equipment, to that which bears the same name in England. From 50 to 100 tons burden, it was as large as an Atlantic schooner, and was fitted with sails, masts, and rigging. Few, if any, now remain, steam having superseded this mode of transit.

**BARK**.—A backwoods' term. By *barking* (the phrase now mainly applies to the past) the settler facilitated the process of clearing the land of the primeval forest. It consisted in cutting a circular hole through the *bark* to the heart of a tree which then gradually withered and died. When dry it was set on fire to save trouble in felling. This policy was, as subsequent events have proved, very wasteful and short-sighted. The woods thus ruthlessly destroyed years ago have now in many places to be restored by young plantations. The same process is sometimes in the North-west called *GIRDLING*, whilst in the South the term used is *BELTING*.—THE WORD WITH THE BARK ON IT, *i.e.*, without



mincing the matter; without circumlocution.

If ever another man gives a whistle to a child of mine and I get my hand on him, I will hang him higher than Haman! That is the word with the BARK ON IT.—*Mark Twain's Roughing it*. Chap. xv.

—TO BARK A SQUIRREL.—Western hunters, from the very nature of their occupation and long practice, are exceedingly expert with the rifle, rarely missing aim. To bark a squirrel arose from the custom of marksmen, instead of firing direct, aiming at a spot immediately underneath it, the aim being so true that the concussion killed the little animal without injuring its skin. Hence metaphorically the expression signifies skill and acute judgment.—TO BARK UP THE WRONG TREE.—Also of trapper and pioneer derivation, and idiomatically used to signify that a person is at fault as to his purpose, or the means by which he is endeavouring to attain his object. The expression arose in this way: the Western huntsman found that his prey gradually became more and more wily and cunning in eluding pursuit, and frequently he and his dogs were at fault, supposing they had "treed" their game when in reality, especially in the case of opossums and squirrels and such-like animals, it had escaped by jumping from the boughs of one tree to another. The dogs consequently were left barking up the wrong tree.

Professor Rose who 'hit this town last spring is around calling us a fugitive from justice, and asking why the police don't do something. Gently, Professor. When we left Xenia, O., the Sheriff patted us on the back and lent us half-a-dollar. We are the only man in this town who doesn't turn pale when the stage comes in, and the only one who doesn't break for the sage brush when it is announced that the United States Marshal is here. We ain't rich or pretty, but we are good, and the Professor is

BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE.—*Detroit Free Press*, October, 1888.

—BARKING THROUGH THE FENCE.—A taking advantage of some obstacle or shield for saying or doing something, which, but for such protection, would not be said or done; or which if done or said might entail unpleasant consequences upon the sayer or doer.

BAR'L (BARREL).—A wealthy candidate for office is said to have remarked "Let the boys know that there's a bar'l o' money ready for 'em," or words to that effect. The use of the term in this sense became general about 1876.

It will be remembered that Mr. Flower was the nominal candidate of the anti Cleveland men four years ago, and with the aid of his BARREL they really did achieve some show of success.—*Florida Times Union*, February 11th, 1888.

BARNBURNER.—A nickname given to certain progressive New York Democrats, about 1835, who were opposed to the Conservative HUNKERS (*q.v.*). The name is derived from the legend of the Dutchman, who set his barn afire in order to kill the rats which infested it, the inference being that the Democrats in question would fain destroy all existing institutions in order to correct their abuses.

Horace Greeley, and a train of real blue-light Clayites from your State, have arrived this morning, and make their head-quarters at the Franklin. Horace has fastened on his armor with rivets and hammer, and the Taylor men will find him a regular BARNBURNER!—*New York Herald*.

BARNEY.—(1) A hoax; something pre-arranged; not genuine. This slang word is current on both sides of the Atlantic, but it is commonly supposed to be of American origin.

Mr. Sheedy reiterates his statement that the fight between Kilrain and Smith was a

BARNEY, and every one in London knows that it was.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, Feb. 7, 1888.

—(2) At Harvard College, about the year 1810, this word was used to designate a bad recitation. To *barney* was to recite badly.—*Hall's College Words and Customs*.

**BARNUMESE.**—Barnum, the proprietor of "the greatest show upon earth," has at any rate one claim to immortal fame in having, like Boycot, Burke, and Balfour, added a new word to the English tongue. The "high falutin," bombastic style of the great man's announcements are notorious; as much so, in fact, as is the diction of the great London newspaper which claims "the largest circulation in the world." From such circumstances we get words like *bar-numese* and telegraphese, to signify exaggeration of style—what in slang parlance is known as the "putting on of side."—To **BAR-NUMIZE** is to talk or assert oneself in the style popularly attributed to Barnum.

**BARON.**—It is, to say the least, curious that in a Republican country so much value should be attached to the nomenclature of feudal and monarchical institutions, unless, indeed, it be regarded as one of the many indications constantly rising to the surface which show that mankind is, after all is said, essentially conservative in its habits and modes of thought. This tendency is very noticeable, and the title hunting of rich American women has been unmercifully satirised; whilst whiskey, railroad, mining, and innumerable other kings, and coal, and pork *barons*, are as plentiful as blackberries. Generals, judges, colonels,

*et cetera*, are also so numerous as to lead one to suppose that the population of the United States has gathered unto itself the quintessence of the earth as far as martial valor and legal learning are concerned.

I have observed in all the 'steam rail **BARON'S**' reply to 'fair trade' that he calls upon the 'iron ore **BARONS**,' the 'coal and coke **BARONS**' and the 'labor **BARONS**' to aid him in meeting European competition in steel rails on a free-trade basis.—*Correspondent of the Chicago Inter-Ocean*.

**BARRACK.**—This word is used somewhat differently to the English *barracks*. It is common in both North and South to indicate a rough four post structure for the storage of hay and straw.—*Fr. Baraque*.

**BARRACLADE.**—A term which has descended from the old knickerbocker days and is now almost exclusively confined to the regions settled by the Dutch. *Barracade*, from the Dutch *barre klederen* is a home-spun blanket destitute of nap.

**BARRACOUA** (*Sphyraena barrocuda*).—In the West Indies this is pronounced *barracoota*; a pike-like fish, the flesh of which is much esteemed for food; it abounds in the Gulf of Florida.

**BARRACoon.**—Bartlett gives this as from the Spanish *barraca*; Haitian, *bajaraque*. A slave-house or enclosure.

**BARRANCA.**—In the South-western States applied to deep holes caused chiefly by torrential rains. The chasms thus formed, as also those produced by swollen water-courses, have steep precipitous banks.

When pursued the elk takes instinctively to the very worst ground. He will go easily in and out of the almost perpendicular BARRANCAS of the bad lands, where no horse can possibly follow.—*Dodge's Plains of the Great West*.

**BARREL-BOARDER.**—A loafer in low drinking-saloons.

**BARREL-HOUSE.**—A low groggery.

The West-Side police are still arresting **BARREL-HOUSE** loafers in the hope of catching an expert crackman among them.—*Missouri Republican*, Feb. 11, 1888.

**BARRENS, BARREN GROUNDS.**—

Elevated plateaus upon which dwarfed and stunted brushwood may be found, but on which there is not a vestige of timber. The soil is poor, and it is a matter of opinion whether its absence is to be attributed to this cause, or to the fires which periodically devastate these waste lands. They have now, in most parts, been brought under cultivation. Technically, the *Barren Grounds* are a vast stretch of country in North-east America.—**BARREN GROUND REIN-DEER** (*Tarandus arcticus*). So called, from being largely found in the tract of country known as the *Barren Grounds*.

**BARRICK.**—Pennsylvania Dutch for a hill. From the German *berg*.

**BARRING OFF.**—In cane cultivation the removal, in the spring, of the earth from the roots of the cane with ploughs and hoes, to permit the light and air to hasten the germinating of the RATOONS (*q.v.*). By the middle of April there should be a good STAND (*q.v.*) of the young sprouts. Then the earth is worked back towards the rows, and there is constant cultivation with the plough till about the 1st of July, when the crop is LAID BY (*q.v.*).

No more work is done on it till the cutting begins in September.

**BAR.**—TO LET DOWN THE BARS.—To interfere; to put a stop to a thing. In the following quotation it refers to the winding-up of the business of Congress for the Session.

The length of the Session will largely depend upon how much compassion is manifested for those foolish virgins, who, when the festivities have got well under way, come up and piteously ask the Legislature to LET DOWN THE BARS.

**BARTENDER.**—The attendant in charge of a drinking saloon; and, almost invariably, a man, barmaids being a comparatively recent innovation. The fondness of Americans for concocted drinks—besides full of mystery their name is legion—necessitates the *bartender* being almost an "artist" in this particular line. It will be remembered that Mark Twain, in his *Innocents Abroad*, complains bitterly of the cruel deception practised upon the "Innocents" by a Parisian hotel-keeper, who had prominently advertised "ALL MANNER OF AMERICAN DRINKS ARTISTICALLY PREPARED HERE." Writing of the imposition, he says:—

We procured the services of a gentleman experienced in the nomenclature of the American bar, and moved upon the works of one of these impostors. A bowing, aproned Frenchman skipped forward and said:

'*Que voulez les messieurs?*' ('Well, now what do you want?')

Our General said, 'We will take a whiskey-straight.'

(A stare from the Frenchman.)

'Well, if you don't know what that is, give us a champagne cock-tail.'

(A stare and a shrug.)

'Well, then, give us a sherry-cobbler.'

The Frenchman was checkmated.

'Give us a brandy smash.'

The Frenchman began to back away, suspicious of the ominous vigour of the last order—began to back away, shrugging his shoulders and spreading his hands deprecatingly.



The General followed him up and gained a complete victory. The uneducated foreigner could not even furnish a Santa Cruz Punch, an Eye-Opener, a Stone Fence or an Earthquake. It was plain that he was an impostor.

*Bartenders* or *BARKEEPERS* as they are otherwise called are exceedingly skilful and experienced in compounding the thousand and one strange, but always palatable decoctions generically known as *AMERICAN DRINKS*, of which the writer once heard the forcible if vulgar criticism that "they made a fellow wish he had a throat a mile long, and a palate at every inch of it." The simile is, perhaps, the more appropriate inasmuch as these compounds are generally taken very leisurely by being sucked through straws or long glass tubes. A good *bartender*, like a good waiter, is a fortune to the house he represents, more especially if he is ingenious enough to introduce new drinks. Many a large hotel has been "made" in this way.

'Death has played a dirty trick on this town,' says an Arizona paper, 'by sneaking in upon us and bearing off the only *BAR-TENDER* who knew how to mix Tom and Jerry to circulate throughout the system.'—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, January, 1888.

**BASE.**—**TO CHANGE BASE.**—A humorous way of admitting a defeat, or, at least, the necessity of endeavouring to accomplish one's purpose in a new and different way.—This catch phrase, during the Rebellion became a byword in the North as in the South, owing to the fact that the repulses suffered by almost every Federal general when attempting to break through the lines of General Lee before Richmond were disguised as mere *changes of base*.

**BASE-BALL.**—The American national game, taking with them the position

that cricket holds with us. Each team consists of nine players. The ball is very hard, and about the size of a cricket-ball. The game is not unlike our rounders, only infinitely more dangerous and rough. The pitcher who feeds the batsmen is wonderfully skilled, and by a peculiar twist makes the ball describe a very decided arc in the air, although thrown with terrific force. So distinct is this arc that a good pitcher will always undertake to hit an object, although a large tree may intervene in a direct line between him and the object aimed at. The "longstop" behind the striker remains at some distance from the wicket for the service of the first two balls, but to receive the third and last ball he puts on a strong wire mask, not unlike a single-stick mask, and stands immediately behind the striker. It is rare for a man to go through a season in this place without sustaining some serious injury to his hands. The remainder of the field occupy various places near the three stations or "bases" to which the players have to run, or further afield. The throwing or catching of good *base-ball* players is marvellously accurate, but, as a game, it is inferior to cricket.

**BASE-BURNER.**—A stove so constructed that the fire within is fed from the top.

**BASIN.**—A *SCHOONER OF BEER* (*q.v.*).

**BASKET-MEETING.**—(1) A species of picnic, its distinctive name arising from the fact of each person bringing his own basket of contributions to the general larder. When arranged by any Church, or other religious organisation, devotional exercises are sometimes engaged in at these meetings.—(2) It some-

times occurs in sparsely populated districts, that a clergyman's stipend is largely paid in kind, and the occasions upon which the obligation thus incurred is carried out, are called in the West *basket-meetings*. In the East they are DONATION-PARTIES (*q.v.*).

**BASS WOOD** (*Tilia americana*).—In appearance this tree is similar to the lime or linden of Europe. The inner bark is stripped for mat making and kindred purposes—hence called *bass*. Another name for it is WHITE-WOOD. The name *bass-wood* is now obsolete in England.

**BASTER**.—A New York cant term for a house thief.

**BASTILE**.—TO BE BASTILLED was the term which, during the Rebellion, was applied to the secret imprisonment inflicted by the military authorities upon those whose sympathies were assumed to lie with the Southern cause. In this sense its use was a revival of the old and cruel memories of the famous French prison.

**BAT, TO** (*i.e.*, in washing clothes).—This process, also well known in France, consists in cleansing soiled linen by beating, and not by rubbing as is usual with English laundresses.

S'manthy, just now was BATTING clothes on a block in front of the house, turning a wet garment over with her left hand from time to time, and giving it the most vindictive blows with a bat held in her right.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

—TO BAT WITH THE EYES (Southern) means to wink, obviously from the weak and dazed-like vision of the animal in question.—Of a different meaning and derivation, though equally apparent, is the

phrase, TO BAT (*i.e.*, to strike) ON THE HEAD.—Also, a frolic or spree; contraction of "batter."  
—BAT ONE'S EYES.—A South-western term which is explained by quotation.

The ox whip has both parts as long as they can be managed. I have seen a poor fellow from Ohio, totally unused to this enormous affair, swing it around his head in many an awkward twist, while the Texans stood by and laughed to see him knock off his hat and BAT HIS EYES at every twitch, to avoid cutting them out.—*Overland Monthly*.

*Cf.* Italian *batter d'occhio*, twinkling of an eye.

**BATTEAU** (French).—A flat-bottomed punt-like boat. These, once common on Western water-ways, have mostly disappeared.

Sharp flashes of lightning, the rumbling of thunder and fierce gusts of wind proclaim the advance of a heavy shower. We cover the BATTEAU with a heavy tarpaulin, fastening it securely at the gunwale; the canoes are hauled up on the bank and turned over, to keep the insides dry.—'A trip on the Upper Mississippi' in the *Portland Transcript*. March 8, 1888.

**BATTERCAKE**.—An inseparable adjunct to the early morning meal in the South. It is made of Indian meal and cream.

**BATTERY**.—An odd name, says De Vere, given in Chesapeake Bay to a heavy boat not unlike a coffin in shape (and hence also known as a COFFIN-BOAT), used in duck-shooting. Its peculiar build enables the hunter to float gently down upon his unsuspecting game, lying below the surface of the water, while the heavy calibre of his gun, and the fact that he shoots from a kind of miniature embrasure, have, no doubt, led to the use of the word *battery*.

**BATTURE**.—Land which forms at the mouth of a river thrown up by the action of a swift current.

**BAULK, TO. BAULKY.**—See BALK.

**BAUM** (College).—At Hamilton College, to fawn upon; to flatter; to court the favor of anyone.—*Hall's College Words and Customs.*

**BAY.**—(1) Prairie land sometimes strikes deeply into the borders of the forest and these indentations are, by analogy derived from similar arms of the sea opening into the land, called *bays*.—(2) Also applied in North Carolina (in Florida they are called BAY-GALLS) to low swampy districts to which a stunted scrubby-bush bars all ingress, and where deer, bear, and other game find refuge. Probably named from the large number of BAY-LAUREL trees generally found in these marshes.

**BAY BERRY** (*Myrica cerifera*).—Also popularly known as the wax myrtle, its leaves being similar, and the odour of its leaves resembling the bay-laurel. Candles are made from the fragrant wax, of a green color, produced by boiling down its berries.

**BAYOO.**—Negro-American for a man of whom Quashie thinks very little; a "low down mean cuss."

**BAYOU** (French).—A water channel; an outlet from a lake.

I kept the banks of the BAYOU, and determined to mark the tree with a blaze.—*A Stray Yankee in Texas*, p. 63.

This vast tract of marsh and fen is full of life and interest. The river, as though loth to part from its dear old hills, struggles to get away from its confining banks, and here and there little BAYOVS have found passage through the bottom land. After reaching the bluffs these BAYOVS flow with sluggish current along their base, beneath over-arching branches of elm and cottonwood, and after flowing a few miles find their straggling way to the parent stream.—*Portland Transcript*, March 7, 1883.

**BAYRES.**—An abbreviation adopted by telegraph companies for "Buenos Ayres."

**BAY STATE.**—Massachusetts. Previous to the War of Independence this State was known as the Colony of Massachusetts Bay, hence the popular name.

Democrats of the old BAY STATE, one charge more, and the work is thoroughly done. 'Once more to the breach,' and you will hear the shouts of Democratic victory and the lamentations of the vanquished. We must achieve a victory,—the people must be free,—cooney must fall with all its corruptions and abominations, never more to rise.—*Boston Post*.

**BAY WINDOW.**—A slang phrase applied to women when pregnant, or to men who, in English slang, have "corporations."

**BAZAAR.**—A New York thieves' term for a counter.

**BEACH-COMBERS.**—The name given to the long deep swell of ocean waves rolling on to the shore.

**BEACH-PLUM** (*Prunus maritima*).—Also SAND-PLUM. The fruit of a tree which flourishes in sandy soil, generally by the sea-coast.

**BEAD.**—TO DRAW A BEAD ON ONE is to attack an opponent by speech or otherwise. The phrase has passed into colloquial use from backwoods parlance, where it signifies the process of taking aim and firing. The front sight of a gun is in appearance like a *bead*.

Well I turned round, fetched her up to her face, and DRAWIN' A BEAD on the nearest, pulled the trigger.—*The Trapper's Story*, 1873.

It was pretty close to the shanty, and I thought I heard the old man coming all the time; but I got her hid; and then I out and looked around a bunch of willows, and there was the old man down the path apiece



just DRAWING A BEAD on a bird with his gun.—*Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, p. 48.

—TO RAISE A BEAD.—To bring to the point; to ensure success, etc.

**BEANS.**—To KNOW BEANS, that is, to be well informed. The phrase is incorporated into many expressions in a very strange way.

The pudding was pronounced a success by each member of the assembled family, including a dainty Boston girl who, of course, KNOWS BEANS.—*Portland Transcript*, March 7, 1888.

One has to KNOW BEANS to be successful in the latest Washington novelty for entertainment at luncheons.—*Chicago Herald*, 1888.

**BEAN TRAPS.**—An American flash term for a swell mobster, or stylish sharper. *Beans* are five-dollar gold pieces and the insinuation is obvious. In old English cant a *bean* meant a guinea, from the French *biens*, property.

**BEAR GRASS** (*Yucca filamentosa*).—Also SILK GRASS.

**BEAR MEAT.**—The flesh of the bear.

**BEAR OFF, To.**—To single out and separate from a body or mass. A cowboy's term. In taking cattle to market, or at ROUND-UPS (*q.v.*) it often happens that herdsmen are obliged to stop and stray the herd. While several herdsmen are stationed around it, to hold it fast, another rides in, selects a stray brand, and cuts it out, by chasing it out with his horse. At other times they *bear off* a single animal, by riding between it and the herd, when in motion. Sometimes, when they have made a march through a dense chaparral, they halt, go back, and drive it, by riding systematically through it in search of stragglers.

**BEAR-SIGN.**—The tracks left by bears.

They reported any amount of BEAR-SIGN on the slopes leading to the river.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

**BEAR STATE** (pronounced *bar*).—Arkansas. So named because of the vast numbers of bears which once abounded within its limits.

**BEAR WALLOWS.**—*Wallows* of various kinds are frequently met with in the Western prairies, and in the Rockies, and are termed buffalo, hog, and *bear wallows*, the depressions having every appearance of being caused by the action of the animal life in question. They are, however, purely natural phenomena.—See BUFFALO WALLOWS.

**BEAST.**—A name given to new cadets at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

**BEAT.**—This word is used in many ways, its precise meaning often depending on its qualifying adjective. It is used both of men and things; for example, a *live beat* is anybody or anything that surpasses another, and the sense is not derogatory in the least. A *dead beat*, on the other hand, is the name given to a man who sponges on his fellows.

As we pay big money for our special news, we can't afford to throw it away on account of a little mistake in the name. So we shove her in with the single remark that it is better to have a Carrot for a President than a DEAD BEAT for a son-in-law. In this way we again score a LIVE BEAT on the galoot 'The Ripsnorter.' Whoopee! Now is the time to subscribe.—*New York Tribune*, 1883.

Speaking of the means adopted by rival journals to obtain news in advance of one another, the *New York Mercury* (1888), writes thus:—

But not only steamboats and locomotives were used by reporters for BEATS, but some

newspaper man named Monroe F. Gale made a trip across the Atlantic in a pilot-boat to get some peculiar news in his own fashion. All things taken into consideration, there never was a bolder voyage over the Atlantic than this made by the *Romer*, all for the sake of a few 'points' in news.

—To GET A BEAT ON is to get the advantage of. The same idea is expressed in the phrase TO BEAT ONE'S WAY THROUGH THE WORLD, in other words, to push one's interests with vigor and pertinacity. As used by thieves and their associates, TO GET A BEAT ON ONE, besides conveying the idea of obtaining an advantage, also implies that the point has been scored by underhand, secret, or unlawful means. A DAISY BEAT is the euphonious name applied to a swindle of the first water.

Later he heard of her marriage to some lawyer or artist named Diss Debar. Previous to this she had been in Montreal and telegraphed that she was dying. She BEAT the hotel out of a hundred dollars.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, April 12, 1888.

Two boys, Russell Kinsley and Harry Kinsley, were each fined twenty-five dollars and the execution was stayed provided they would go to their home in Carroll County, Missouri. They have been BEATING boarding houses all over the West Side.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, March 23, 1888.

**BEATERS.**—A slang term for boots; BEATER-CASES with the same meaning is a now almost obsolete phrase among the lower classes in England, TROTTER-CASES having supplanted it.

**BEATINEST.**—The best; surpassing all others. [Qy.—Is this word irregularly formed from "to beat," to surpass, with the superlative suffix, or is it a corruption of A.S. *betest* of which best is a shortened form?]

Though George warn't the BEATINEST smart sailor he ever sot eyes on, he had plenty of fackilty 'n' was stiddy 'n' likely as any young feller in the hull place.—*Portland Transcript*, 1888.

**BEAU.**—Universally used for "sweet-heart," in fact, the latter term rarely if ever falls from a girl's lips when speaking of her lover. So general is this usage that we get the verb TO BEAU in a corresponding sense, as also in the less intimate one of simply "to escort."

**BEAUTIFUL.**—Often, like "elegant," misused in describing what is pleasing or good. This perversion of language is not unknown in England, but such extraordinary forms, *e.g.*, "beautiful conduct," as fall from American lips are scarcely ever heard in England. When Yankees misuse a word, they do it thoroughly; generally, however, American-English, taking the people all round, is much purer than the vernacular of the Mother Country.

**BEAUTY (Cadet).**—A term applied, on the rule of contrary, to the plainest or ugliest cadet in the class at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

**BEAVER.**—TO WORK LIKE A BEAVER.—Obviously a simile denoting industry and perseverance.—BEAVER DAM.—The obstructions which the industrious beaver is in the habit of throwing across a stream are too well-known to need further description.—BEAVER MEADOWS.—The haunts of the beaver.

Three or four miles more—among old BEAVER-MEADOWS, where every now and then we heard, loud almost as a pistol-shot, the beaver smite the water with his broad tail, as he went down to his own quiet, clear pool.—*Scribner's Magazine*, May, 1887.

—BEAVER TREE (*Magnoliaglauca*).—The distinctive name of this tree is supposed to arise from the fact that its bark is much sought after by beavers as an article of food, while its wood is largely used by

them in the construction of their dams. The term is specially Western; in the East the same tree is called the CASTOR TREE, from *Castor americanus* the scientific cognomen of the American beaver.

**BECAUSE or CAYSE.**—Used in the South for "because." De Vere points out that *because*, contrary to expectation, is confined to the whites; also that, if a mere corruption, it is one which has been current since the settlement of Virginia. It was used by Pepys in his Diary. *Cayse*, on the other hand, seems more like a negro corruption, and finds a place in many a negro melody.

Massa make de darkeys love him,  
CAYSE he was so kind,  
Now, dey sadly weep above him,  
Mourning CAYSE he leave dem behind.  
I cannot work before to-morrow,  
CAYSE de teardrop flow,  
I try to drive away my sorrow,  
Pickin' on de old banjo.

—*Negro Ballad.*

**BEDROCK.**—A miner's term. It often happens that gold is not found until *bedrock* is reached. Metaphorically "to reach *bedrock*" is to attain a solid basis or foundation; *bedrock facts* are the "chiels that winna ding"—the incontestible and uncontrovertible truth.

Street cleaning is going on famously—and a multitude of people will be glad when we dig down to *bedrock* once more. It is just the kind of work that cannot be pushed too rapidly. Discomfort and disease lie all along dirty thoroughfares.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, April, 1888.

Thomas J. Whiteman of Carrol county is a Republican candidate for governor of Missouri. You can bet your *bedrock* dollar that the next governor of Missouri will be a white man, although his first name isn't apt to be Thomas.—*Louisiana Press*, March 31, 1888.

**BED-SPREAD.**—A coverlet or counterpane; *BED-QUILT* is the corresponding term in England.

The articles which were offered composed about as varied an assortment as ever an auctioneer cried—costumes of all sorts, kinds and descriptions, mattresses, pillows, *BED-SPREADS*, etc., etc.—*Missouri Republican*, February 24, 1888.

**BEE.**—America is essentially the land of *bees*—gatherings of friends and neighbours for some special object. In the old days, when population was sparse, a new settler would, unaided, be totally unable to perform many necessary operations, such as clearing the land, erecting a log cabin, etc., within a reasonable time; his neighbours would, therefore, come to his assistance, and the many pairs of hands at a "chopping-bee," or a "raising-bee," or a "building-bee" would accomplish, in a few hours, what would have taken one man many weeks to perform. The custom was general; indeed, the rendering of such assistance was regarded as almost a public duty. The practice was by no means confined to the rougher operations of the settler's life; as time went on, and his family grew up around him, they would feel a longing for, and the need of social intercourse. One great obstacle to this was the long distances separating the various homesteads; so work was combined with pleasure, and, if one good dame had to beat the flax, to pare the apples for preserving, or to husk the corn, or gather in the nuts, a *bee* was announced, and the neighbours would gather from twenty or thirty miles distance like so many *bees* and do the work, after which they would betake themselves to social intercourse and merrymaking. So popular did these festive gatherings become, that every excuse was seized upon as an occasion for such junketings. The term is now applied to almost any gathering of people for a useful, entertaining, or other purpose; as, for example,



in the case of "spelling" or "sewing bees," while in the West "lynching bees" are not infrequent, and even "dying bees" are familiar! For further details refer to special kinds of bees, e.g., QUILTING-BEE, CHOPPING-BEE, STONE-BEE, etc.

We sometimes wonder if they still keep up the old-fashioned PARING-BEE in the country, or has it passed away with sewing by hand and the spinning-wheel? In our day many frolics came with autumn. There was the HUSKING-BEE gathered in some barn to husk the farmer's corn by the light of lanterns swung from the beams, and beaming on rosy-cheeked girls and laughing boys. Cider and pumpkin pie used to finish out the entertainment. The PARING-BEES drew best, however, and young people came for miles around. The work was performed by hand, generally, amid a great clatter of tin pans and knives and tongues. Gathered around the yawning fire-place of a farmer's ample kitchen, faces all radiant with fun and fire-light, the PARING-BEE that we recall was a scene of mirthful industry that we would travel many miles to see again. When the work was over how quickly they could clear the kitchen for a dance. Many was the life-match effected at the country PARING-BEE, the long walk home being specially calculated for such a conclusion.—*Texas Siftings*, Oct. 13, 1888.

**BEECH DROP.**—A vegetable parasite of the beech.

**BEEF.**—Used in the South and West as the singular of oxen; thus, a *beef* instead of "ox."—To BEEF.—To kill oxen, and convert their flesh into beef.—BEEFING BEE.—An assembly of people for the purpose of slaughtering cattle.—See BEE.

'I'll bet all the 'taters I'll raise this year th't you mean Phil Byer's BEEFIN' BEE!' exclaimed the squire. 'Boys, I mus' tell ye 'bout that. We had heard th't Phil Byer were gointer BEEF a steer o' his'n th't had got a leetle too rantankerous to be handled fer work. Ez none on us hadn't never heard o' setch a thing ez a BEEFIN' BEE we ruther cal'lated ez 'twere 'bout time to get one up.'—*Chicago Herald*, 1888.

—BEEF CATTLE.—By *beef cattle* is understood animals fit for food

in contradistinction to those used as beasts of burden.—BEEF DODGER.—A meat biscuit made of beef and Indian corn.—BEEF STEERS.—See BEEF CATTLE, above.

The cattle are fattest and in best condition during the fall, and it is then that the bulk of the BEEF STEERS are gathered and shipped—four-year olds as a rule, though some threes and some fives go with them.—*Century Magazine*, 1887.

**BEEGUMS.**—A name originally applied to beehives made of the hollow trunks of gum trees (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), which bees, in a wild state, very often select, when hollow, for building their hives. These trees are naturally very liable to rapid internal decay, leaving only a shell; the trunks are then made into casks, beehives, etc. The word *beegum* is also applied to any kind of hive made of wood.

But time we wuz in oursaddles crack went a gun fum behin' the court-house.... The Perrysburg people was like a BEEGUM that's been upshot. The people was now a-runnin', some one way un some t'other, un more guns wuz fired off fum some'ers,—we never stopped to eenquire fum whar, tell we'd got safe acrost the county line.—*Century Magazine*.

**BEE-LINE.**—To TAKE OR MAKE A BEE-LINE for any spot or place is to go direct, or "as the crow flies"; an allusion to the habit of bees, who, when fully laden with pollen, make for the hive in a straight or *bee-line*.

The cattle are in great dread of this pest (the heel-fly), and the instant an animal feels one it holds its tail in the air, and takes a BEE-LINE for the nearest water.—*Aldridge's Ranch Notes*, 1884, p. 78.

The field o' Lexington where England tried  
The fastest colors thet she ever dyed,  
An' Concord Bridge, thet Davis, when he came,

Found was the BEE-LINE track to heaven an' fame.

Ez all roads be by natur', ef your soul  
Don't sneak thur shun-pikes so's to save  
the toll.

—*Biglow Papers*.

One of the American railroads is called the BEE-LINE ROAD from the direct route it takes between its termini. Also AIR-LINE (*q.v.*).

**BEEN THERE.**—OH, YES, I'VE BEEN THERE; I know what I am about. A popular slang exclamation and usage. When it is said of a man that he has *been there*, shrewdness, pertinacity, and experience are implied. A variant may be found in the equally slang "he got there all the same."—See GET THERE.

The Japanese say: 'A man takes a drink; then the drink takes a drink, and next the drink takes the man.' Evidently the Japanese 'have BEEN THERE.'—*Atlanta Constitution*, 1888.

**BEER.**—BEMUSING HIMSELF WITH BEER, was a phrase which, originating with G. A. Sala (in *Gaslight and Daylight*), caught the popular fancy and ran a brief but riotous course throughout the Union to signify one who addicted himself to "soaking" with beer.

**BEER-JERKER.**—A tippler.

**BEE TREE.**—A Western and Southern phrase. A hollow tree in which bees have swarmed and made a hive. The gum-tree (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), from the bark of which is obtained a fragrant gum much used for chewing purposes, is a favorite haunt of these useful little insects; and as the tree, when wounded in the bark, quickly decays and becomes hollow, a *bee-tree* is in reality often synonymous with a gum tree.

**BEFO' THE WAR, i.e.,** before the Rebellion, 1861-5. Mark Twain, in his *Life on the Mississippi*, graphically describes the purport of this phrase:—"Mention of the war will wake up a dull company and set their tongues going, when nearly any other topic would fail. In the South, the war is what A.D. is elsewhere; they date from it. All day long you hear things 'placed' as having happened since the war; or du'in' the war; or befo' the war; or right aftah the war; or 'bout two yeahs, or five yeahs, or ten yeahs befo' the war or aftah the war. It shows how intimately every individual was visited, in his own person, by that tremendous episode. It gives the inexperienced stranger a better idea of what a vast and comprehensive calamity invasion is, than he can ever get by reading books at the fireside." Further on he relates how "everything is changed since the war, for better or for worse; but you'll find people down here born grumblers, who see no change except the change for the worse." There was an old negro woman of this sort. A young New Yorker said in her presence, "What a wonderful moon you have down here!" She sighed and said, "Ah, bless yo' heart, honey, you ought to seen dat moon befo' de war!"

**BEGGAR TICKS, also BEGGAR LICE and HARVEST LICE.**—In English cant, CHATS.

**BEGOSH! B'GOSH!**—An expletive, probably of negro origin; a half veiled oath; a corruption of "By God!"

Art dealer (descanting on the virtues of the picture) 'You will observe, sir, that the drawing is free, that—'

Agriculturalist 'Well, if the drawin's free an' you don't tax me too much for the frame B'GOSH I'll take it.—*The Epoch*, May, 1888.

**BEHEAD, To.**—Used in political circles when an official's term of office has come to an end through change of Government, or supersession in other ways. Also **TO DECAPITATE**.

**BEHINDMENTS.**—Outstanding liabilities; arrears; a deficit.

**BEING.**—Used as an equivalent for "considering," "because," and, as such, a vulgarism; *e.g.*, "*Being* as you are going to town I need not trouble myself."

**BELIKED.**—Liked; beloved; formed on the model of the latter.

**BELITTLE.**—To underrate; to depreciate, or to disparage. A man's character may be *belittled*, *i.e.*, disparaged, etc. Hence **BELITTLING** and **BELITTLEMENT**. All these words originated in the United States, *belittle* being first used about 1796. Now colloquial on both sides of the Atlantic.

**BELL.**—**TO RING ONE'S OWN BELL.**—A variation of "to blow one's trumpet"; to sound one's praises personally.

**BELL-BOY.**—In American hotels the *bell-boy* occupies very much the place of the English boots.

**BELLMARE.**—A political leader. The term is a slang appropriation from the terminology of Western life, where it seems to be used in regard to mules much in the same way as bell-wether is employed in England in reference to sheep. Why the grey mare, says the author of *A Ride with Kit Carson*, should be the better horse in the estimation of mules I cannot say, but such is certainly the fact. Though very cautious animals when relying

solely on their own judgment, they would appear to have a consciousness of their own inferiority, which induces them to entertain a great regard for the sagacity of the horse, and especially for that of a white mare. The wily Californians taking advantage of this amiable weakness, employ a steady, old, white mare of known gentleness and good character, to act as a kind of mother and guide to each drove of unruly mules.

**BELLOUSES.**—This term, pure slang in England, is colloquial in Pennsylvania and the New England States for the lungs.

**BELLOWS TOP.**—An egg flip; the name *bellows top* is conferred on it because of the whitish froth which rises to the surface when beaten with a whisk or swizzle stick.

**BELLYACHE, To.**—A coined word, meaning "to grumble without good cause." Employés *bellyache* at being overworked, or when they fancy themselves underfed. A vulgarism.

**BELLY-BENDER.**—A boy's term for weak and unsafe ice.

**BELLY BOUND.**—This is supposed to be a corruption of the French *belle et bonne*, and is the name in Connecticut of a particular sort of apple.

**BELLY-BUMPER OR BELLY-BUSTER.**—**TO TAKE A BELLY-BUSTER;** *i.e.*, to ride down a hill in a sled lying on one's stomach, an amusement confined, it hardly needs saying, to Young America. The idea of tobogganning was derived from this boyish pastime, and the oaken board has been succeeded by the



fleet-winged toboggan, made of seasoned maple with handsomely upholstered seats. With the advent of the improved ice vehicles the interest in these sports has increased, and instead of being confined to the vulgar boys who used to ride down hill *belly-buster* fashion, men and even the most fashionable women now partake of this pleasant and invigorating pastime. Also BELLY-BUMBO, BELLY-GUTS or GUTTER, BELLY-FLOUNDERS, BELLY-FLUMPS and BELLY-PLUMPER.

Barney has a sled, on which he hauls the fish in snowy weather. Barney had his sled out yesterday, BELLY-BUMPING on a little patch of ice and snow.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*, 1888.

**BELLY-BUTTON.**—A vulgar name for the navel.

**BELLY-GUTS.**—(1) In Pennsylvania, molasses candy. —(2) Equivalent to BELLY-BUMPER (*q.v.*).

**BELLY PLUMPER.**—See BELLY-BUMPER.

**BELONGINGS.**—Still current as a synonym for "property," in which sense it is a survival of old English usage. More often, however, it is employed as a euphemism for "trousers" by the prudishly inclined.

**BELT, To.**—A Southern phrase equivalent to the North-western BARK or the Western GIRDLE (*q.v.*). A process by which land is speedily cleared of trees by means of a *belt* or girdle cut round the bark with a hatchet, causing the tree gradually to wither and die.

**BEND.**—ABOVE ONE'S BEND, *i.e.*, above one's ability, power or capacity, or out of one's reach. Probably a corruption of "above

one's bent." Shakespeare puts the expression in the mouth of Hamlet, "to the top of my bent" (iii. 2.). In the Southern States its place is generally taken by ABOVE MY HUCKLEBERRY (*q.v.*). An English equivalent is "above one's hook."

It would be ABOVE MY BEND to attempt telling you all we saw among the red skins. —*J. F. Cooper's The Oak Openings*.

**BENDER.**—In Lowland Scotch a hard and persistent drinker is so called. In the States, however, the term is more usually applied to a drinking bout or a spree, in the course of which, to use another slang expression, "the town is painted red," and the participants decidedly unbent.

He was a character noted for going on frequent BENDERS until he came very near having the jimjams and then sobering up. —*Detroit Free Press*, Aug. 4, 1888.

**BENS.**—A workman's slang term for his tools.

**BERMUDA GRASS** (*Gnodon dactylon*).—A large leaved grass which has been acclimatized in the Southern States.

**BERMUDA VINE.**—The cultivated *Vitis riparia*, grown for the sake of its highly scented flowers, and called, when found in a wild state, the RIVER GRAPE, CHICKEN GRAPE, FROST GRAPE.

**BEST, To.**—To BEST ONE is to obtain an advantage, generally by mean and underhand methods. Like its antithesis "to worst" used in the sense of "to defeat," it is now a genuine vulgarism, though there is some reason for the contention that it formed at one time a legitimate component of the language.

**BESTMOST.**—The best. Used absolutely and not relatively as is the colloquial English "bettermost." Though not a dictionary word *bestmost* is regularly formed, and, except that it is in reality a double superlative, is equally as respectable as "bettermost."

All her word was, 'Doctor, don' let 'er suffer!' but w'en she seen doctor war doin' his *BESTMOST*, she never said nary nuther word.—*Leslie's Illustrated Paper*, June, 1888.

**BET.**—**YOU BET!** A Californian phrase tacked on to an assertion to give it additional emphasis. So popular is the expression that it has been given as a name in the form of *UBET* to a town in the Canadian Northwest. Oftentimes it is amplified into "you bet your boots," "life," or "bottom dollar," and so on. The two former were used in New York and Boston as far back as 1840.

Mr. Boutelle—That is the bravery to which you refer? (Applause on the Republican side.)

Mr. O'Ferrall—Well, sir, it is the right kind of bravery: you may *BET YOUR BOTTOM DOLLAR* on that.—*Congressional Report in Daily Inter-Ocean*, March 7, 1888.

—To *BET ONE'S EYES* is a gambler's term applied to an onlooker who neither takes part in nor bets upon the game.

**BETTER.**—Used colloquially in the East for "more." Also provincial in England as a vulgarism, though dating back to Saxon times.

**BETTERMENTS.**—A term equivalent to "improvements" (of property). Colloquial everywhere. Quoted by Murray.

'And so Mr. Pinkerton is after sending me to England, as he kindly says, for the *BETTERMENT* of my health,' remarked McParlan, in his pleasant way, the next afternoon, to my cashier, as he received the advance of money for his expenses.—*Pinkerton's Mollie Maguires and Detectives*.

**BETTY.**—The straw-bound Florence-flask of commerce, in which salad oil is usually shipped.

**BETWEENITY.**—A state of uncertainty; of trembling in the balance; or, to use another Americanism, *SITTING UPON THE FENCE* (*q.v.*).

**BEVEL.**—Bartlett quotes this as current in Long Island for a slope or declivity; while Forby, in his *Vocabulary of East Anglia*, defines a *bevel* as a road which is laid higher in the middle, hence *BEVEL-EDGED*.

**B'HOYS.**—At one time a favorite appellation for the "rough" element in New York. With their *G'HALS*, they made themselves conspicuous on high days and holidays, and, at times, at the polling booth. They were often more distinctively called *BOWERY BOYS*, from the fact of their congregating mostly in that well-known thoroughfare.

**BIBIBLES.**—Food of a liquid kind. An innovation, formed on the model of "edibles," which has little to recommend it save its vulgarity.

**BIDDABLE.**—This savours considerably of the Emerald Isle, and is probably an importation into Western life therefrom. *Biddable* children or servants are those in whom obedience, compliance, and tractability are prominent qualities.

**BIDDY.**—An Irish female servant. Bridget is a favorite name with the Irish, and *Biddy* is its familiar form.

**BIG.**—Used not only as regards quantity, but quality also. Thus, what in England would be called fine old whiskey and brandy would, in

America, be designated "*big* whiskey," etc.

**BIG-BONE LICK.**—A locality in Kentucky where immense numbers of animal remains have been found, more especially those of deer, buffalo, wild cattle, and even mastodons, whole skeletons of the latter having been unearthed. The theory is that the spot was a favorite resort of game in the far away past. A *lick* means a place where rock-salt and saline springs abound, which, it is well-known, form an attraction for such animals.

**BIG BUGS.**—He's a BIG BUG IN HIS WAY, that is, a person of standing or consequence either self-estimated or in reality. A disrespectful but common mode of allusion to persons of wealth or with other claims to distinction. Variants are BIG-DOG or BIG-TOAD, and in English slang "big wig" and "great gun."

Don't appear unduly surprised or flustered if, on answering the front door bell, you find Mr. Gladstone wiping his feet on the door mat. Invite him to walk in in a cool, collected tone of voice. . . . Show him you have entertained BIG BUGS before. —*Texas Siftings*, Sept. 15, 1888.

**BIG DOG OF THE TANYARD.**—A consequential, pompous individual; one who will neither allow others a voice in any matter or permit dissent from his own views. The obvious derivation is from the customary guarding of tanyards by ferocious watch-dogs.

**BIG DOG WITH THE BRASS COLLAR.**—The chief in any undertaking or enterprise; a leader. A simile evidently derived from the stable or kennel. The phrase is sometimes shortened to *big dog*.

'Yes,' said Dormer, 'Lawler is the big dog in these parts now; besides he kapes a good

tavern, and will see no old-timer, or young one either, for that matter, sufferin' from want while he can relieve him!' —*Pinkerton's Mollie Maguires and Detectives*.

**BIG DRINK.**—(1) When a Western plainsman talks of the *big drink*, he is always understood to mean the Mississippi river. —(2) TO TAKE A BIG OR LONG DRINK is to partake of liquor from a large glass. It is very customary when calling for liquor to state whether a LONG or SHORT DRINK is required.

**BIG FIGURE.**—TO GO THE BIG FIGURE. —Merely a variant of "to go the whole hog," or "to go the whole animal," and signifies embarking upon an enterprise of magnitude. The phrase is mainly current in the South, and is derived from a term used in poker.

**BIGGEST.**—A superlative often used in the sense of "the best" or "the finest."

*The Pittsburg Times* is as breezy a journal as comes to this office. It is the BIGGEST little paper we are acquainted with. —*Washington (Pa.) Review*, 1888.

**BIGGEST TOAD IN THE PUDDLE.**—One of the many bold, if equivocal metaphors to which the West has given rise. The *biggest toad in the puddle* is the recognised leader or chief whether in politics, or in connection with the rougher avocations of pioneer life. Equivalent to THE BIG DOG WITH THE BRASS COLLAR (*q.v.*)—See also BIG BUGS.

**BIGGITY.**—Consequential; giving oneself airs. A negro term.

These railroads have made havoc with the steamboat commerce. The clerk of our boat was a steamboat clerk before these roads were built. In that day the influx of population was so great, and the freight business so heavy, that the boats were not able to keep up with the demands made upon their carrying capacity; consequently the



captain was very independent and airy—pretty BIGGITY, as Uncle Remus would say.—*Mark Twain's Life on the Mississippi*, P. 511.

**BIGHEAD.**—(1) A disease peculiar to cattle, so named from the swelling produced in the head.—(2) To GET A BIG HEAD, or TO HAVE ONE'S HEAD SWELLED, is a term applied in cases where new ideas result in unbearable conceit, or a twisted vision.

**BIG HORN** (*Ovis montana*).—A species of sheep peculiar to the Rocky Mountains, from California northwards. Dodge describes it as a splendid animal, which, among the horned beasts of the Great West, ranks next in size to the elk. In appearance the *big horn*, or MOUNTAIN SHEEP, as it is otherwise known, is a curious combination. His body is that of a very large deer; his head that of a domestic sheep, except that no domestic sheep could possibly carry the enormous horns with which his mountain cousin is provided. These horns are often more than twenty inches in circumference at the base, and, starting out at the rear, make more than a complete circle, the points projecting below and in front of the eyes. Head and horns will often weigh sixty pounds. He sheds his winter covering very late, whilst, after shedding, his coat is thick with short greyish hair. By fall, this has changed to a dun, almost the color of the elk. The outer hair has become more than an inch long, rather wiry, and, in winter, he puts on an additional jacket in the shape of a coating of exceedingly fine wool, which, though sometimes quite three inches long, never shows outside the other hair, but lies curled up close to the skin. From about the middle of August

until the first of November, the flesh of the MOUNTAIN SHEEP is the most delicious *bonne bouche* that ever tickled the palate of the gourmand. It is impossible to describe it; but if one can imagine a saddle of most delicious "South-down," flavored with the richest and most gamey juices of the black-tail, he will form some idea of the treat in store for him when he shall sit down to a feast of MOUNTAIN SHEEP in season and properly cooked. Except when "in season," the MOUNTAIN SHEEP is thin, tough, and the poorest food that the plains furnish to man. His home is among crags and "broken" rocks, generally at an elevation above tide-water of not less than 5,000 feet, but the sportsman may also, in many portions of the plains, very surely count on finding *big horn*, and if he does find him, and is cool, he may bag several from one herd.

**BIG MEETING.**—The Western term for the PROTRACTED (religious) MEETINGS of the new England States. A preacher of note generally announces his advent in thinly populated districts sometime before his actual arrival. Once on the spot the devotional exercises are spread over whole days and sometimes weeks, hence the distinctive name. Compare with CAMP MEETING.

**BIG MONEY.**—TO MAKE, GIVE, or SPEND BIG MONEY is, as the term implies, simply, to obtain or expend a large sum. A speaker advocating the claims of the Y.M.C.A. said that to accomplish certain objects "*big money* must be subscribed."

**BIG TREES.**—The popular name of the giant pine trees of California (*Sequoia gigantea*, *washingtonia*,

*wellingtonia*). Only recently there was felled in Lonoma County, California, a tree which cut up as follows. The *Petaluma Argus* says that the details can be relied upon. The standing height of the tree was 347 ft., and its diameter near the ground was 14 ft. In falling, the top was broken off nearly 200 ft. distant from the stump, and up to the point of breaking the tree was perfectly sound. From the tree saw-logs were cut of the following lengths and diameters:—1. 14 ft. long, 9 ft. dia.; 2. 12 ft. long, 8 ft. dia.; 3. 12 ft. long, 7 ft. 7 in. dia.; 4. 14 ft. long, 7 ft. 6 in. dia.; 5. 16 ft. long, 7 ft. dia.; 6. 16 ft. long, 6 ft. 10 in. dia.; 7. 16 ft. long, 6 ft. 6 in. dia.; 8. 16 ft. long, 6 ft. 4 in. dia.; 9. 16 ft. long, 6 ft. 3 in. dia.; 10. 18 ft. long, 6 ft. dia.; 11. 12 ft. long, 5 ft. 10 in. dia.; 12. 18 ft. long, 5 ft. 6 in. dia. It will thus be seen that 180 ft. of this remarkable tree were converted into saw-logs.

**BILBERRY** (*Vaccinium*).—The wortleberry. The same plant was formerly known in England as the **BILBERRY WHORTLE**; the term, however, is now obsolete.

**BILK**.—A strongly offensive term used in the West to signify a person who habitually sponges upon another, and who never by any chance makes a return or even offers to do so. In English slang it means a downright cheat or swindler; it will therefore be seen that Western usage has considerably softened its meaning.

**BILL**.—**TO FOOT A BILL**.—A phrase now common in both hemispheres, signifying to settle an account.

**BILL-BOARD**.—A notice-board.

**BILL-FISH** (*Belone truncata*).—A salt-water fish which, in the summer, ascends the rivers into fresh waters. At times it is found at a considerable distance inland.

**BILLIARDIST**.—A player at billiards. The form of this word like that of many of its congeners has little to recommend it to purists and other advocates of orthographical accuracy. Words terminating in *ist* (an "agent") are multiplying on every hand. One of the earliest introductions was "scientist," about which a battle-royal was fought; and now we have "bicyclist," and, save the gods! even "walkist" and "runnist." Except in very rare instances the combination is intolerable to educated ears, and little enough can be said in defence of the usage.

Each competitor has put up fifty dollars entrance money in **BILLIARDIST** Daly's hands, and the money will be divided into four prize purses for the winners.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, Jan. 24, 1888.

**BILL OF SALE** (Cant).—Widow's weeds.

**BILLY**.—A weapon used by desperadoes, and also by the police when apprehending violence or dangerous resistance on the part of the former when pursued. The construction of a *billy* varies, but usually it is composed of a piece of untanned cowhide, as hard as horn itself, some six inches in length, twisted or braided into a sort of handle, and covered from end to end with woollen cloth. One extremity is loaded with three quarters of a pound of lead; to the other is firmly attached a loop, large enough to admit a man's hand, formed of strong linen cord, and intended to allow the *billy* to hang loose from the wrist and at the same time

prevent it being lost or wrenched from the grasp of its owner. At close quarters, it proves a very savage and formidable arm of defence, resembling, but being much more dangerous than the ordinary slung-shot in daily use by policemen and others. Twelve ounces of solid lead and raw-hide, dashed against the thickest skull by a strong armed ruffian, would as effectually silence a man as an ounce of the same metal discharged from the bore of a Springfield rifle. It may be remarked that *billy* in English slang is a policeman's staff, a very different weapon.

The condition of the man reported as having been shot twice in the head on Thursday afternoon, is not at all alarming. It transpires that his wounds are not of the gun-shot sort, but were inflicted with a *billy* in the hands of a Pinkerton man.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, April 14, 1888.

**BILLY-BUTTON.**—Mutton is so called in American slang.

**BILLY NODDLE.**—This combination stands in American slang for a fellow whose self-conceit leads him to suppose himself specially attractive to the other sex.

**BIMS, BIMSHIRE.**—Nicknames given in the West Indies to Barbadians and Barbadoes. This island is likewise sometimes jeeringly called **LITTLE ENGLAND**, and Barbadian is contracted into 'BADIAN.

**BINDERY.**—Quoted by Webster as an Americanism. Many new words have been introduced into the language by a simple extension of the recognised principles of word formation to new needs and requirements. Thus, as a tannery is a place where hides are tanned, so a *bindery* is an establishment for the binding of books.

Many women of a certain age are fond of reading doctors' books, which, though not quite immoral, are none the less unpleasant. The applicant for an objectionable work is usually asked to fill out a slip, giving his age and occupation, together with his name, reference for character, and reason why he wants the book. This slip must receive the endorsement of the librarian before the request is complied with. At the **BINDERY**, is the ordinary formula employed in such cases, which, being translated, means that you cannot have what you want.—*New York World*, July 22, 1888.

**BIRCH.**—A canoe.

**BIRD'S EYE LIMESTONE.**—The popular name of a peculiar geological formation in the neighbourhood of New York.

**BIRD'S EYE MAPLE.**—Wood much esteemed for decorative purposes by cabinet makers. Picture frames are largely made of it, its distinctive name being derived from its peculiar markings. The maple, like the oak, is very abundant in the United States.

**BISCUIT.**—What English people call biscuits are in America called crackers; the former are very like the hot breakfast rolls of the English table.

They drank their breakfast coffee and ate their warm **BISCUIT** and butter and fried ham and eggs with rueful faces.—*Century Magazine*.

**BISHOP.**—A bustle—part of feminine attire.

**BISON** (*Bison americanus*).—More usually called the **BUFFALO**. The wild ox, a fierce and shaggy animal with one hump upon its back. At one time found from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast, but few now remain, and it has been ascertained that of the millions which once roamed the prairies of the West scarcely a hundred survive. A



scheme has been originated (1888) by Mr. Clinton A. Snowden of the *Chicago Times* to save the *bisons* still to be found on the plains. For this purpose an expedition is being organized to "corrall" those animals which are now located in the south-western portion of Texas. The leading idea is to perpetuate a species which is thoroughly typical of American animal life, care being taken that none may be killed before or after capture.

The American bison and the Egyptian mummy are fading away. The day will soon come when those who have slaughtered whole herds of buffalo for their tongues and fertilized their timothy sod with the dust of dynasties will go hungry.—*Forest and Stream*, May, 1888.

**BIT.**—An old, cant word for money, and colloquially the name given to coins varying in value according to locality—usually, however, to the silver piece of the lowest denomination. Fourpenny pieces are still called *bits* in some parts of England, and in Demerara the term is in general use for the same coin.

**BIZ.**—A vulgar corruption for business. "Good *biz*" is profitable business.

**BLACK ACT** (Cant).—Picking locks—a black act indeed.

**BLACKBALLING.**—Stealing or pilfering. A sailor's word. It originated amongst the employees of the old Black Ball line of steamers between New York and Liverpool. The cruelty and scandalous conduct of officers to men—and sailors to each other—became so proverbial, that the line of vessels in question became known all over the world for the cruelty of its officers, and the thieving propensities of its sailors.

**BLACK BASS.**—This name is given in various parts of the Union, to two different kinds of fish, the *Centropristes nigricans* or sea bass being known as *black bass* on the Jersey coast. The *black bass* of the lake and river districts of the North and West is a highly esteemed freshwater fish.

**BLACK BOX** (Cant).—A limb of the law. The criminal classes apparently have no very exalted idea of the profession, as indeed might be expected.

**BLACK CODE.**—De Vere says, "A word as hideous in sound as of import, connected with the negro, is the famous *Black Code*, a collection of laws first made by Bienville in Louisiana, which was ever after the model for all legislation on the relations of master and slave." When the colony was taken possession of by the Crown of Spain in the year 1769, the provisions of the *Black Code* were retained with such modifications as the *Siete Partidas* made on the subject of slavery. This system of laws has ever since been the "Blackstone" of Spain and her colonies, and is still the authority in the parts of America settled by Spaniards. Its power continued long in Louisiana, and largely controlled the rights of negroes, even after the colony became a State of the Union.

**BLACK-EYED SUSAN.**—Texan for a revolver. Among other slang equivalents for this weapon current in the Lone Star State may be mentioned MEAT IN THE POT, BLUE LIGHTNING, THE PEACE-MAKER, MR. SPEAKER, A ONE-EYED SCRIBE, PILL BOX and MY UNCONVERTED FRIEND.—See MEAT IN THE POT.

**BLACKFELLOW.**—A Southern name for a negro.

**BLACK-FISH** (*Labrus americanus*).—

The color of its back and sides gives the special name to this fish which is caught in shoals off Rhode Island and its neighbourhood. It is sometimes called by its Indian name, the TAUTAUG.

**BLACKFRIARS**!—A thieves' exclamation of warning; look out! beware!

**BLACK GRASS**.—A fine, short grass common on the salt, marshy lands of the New England coast. Rich and abundant in growth it forms capital food for stock. The salt marshes upon which it grows, like the Irish bog lands, may often be probed to a depth of twenty feet or more without touching bottom, but in spite of this the hay crop is regularly reaped.

**BLACK-GUM**.—A well known tree belonging to the genus *Nyssa* which flourishes in the Middle States.

**BLACK-HEAD** (*Fulix marila*).—The broad-bill; popularly known on the Chesapeake Bay as a *black-head*, and in Virginia as a *RAFT-DUCK*.

**BLACK-JACK**. — (1) (*Quercus nigra*).—Also *SCRUB* and *BARREN OAK*. A small stunted species which thrives on the sea-shore and in other sandy localities. This species of the genus *Quercus* is so abundant in some parts, as to cover some thousands of acres, notably on both sides of the Cimmarron River, Indian Territory. Oaks of all kinds are very abundant throughout the States in great variety. Walking sticks are largely manufactured from the *black-jack* kind.

William Tartar, of Chestnut Hill, had been in the habit of beating his wife with a *BLACKJACK* for some time. A stop was put to it this morning by Magistrate Smith holding him in 600 dols. bail for court.—*Philadelphia Evening Bulletin*, Feb. 23, 1888.

—(2) In the New England States, *blackjack* is the name given to rum to which molasses has been added to sweeten it.—(3) The name by which miners know ore of zinc, the sulphuret of zinc of chemists.—(4) An army nickname of the late General John A. Logan, given him because of his very dark complexion. He died early in the current year (1888).

**BLACKLEG**.—A disease to which cattle on the Western plains are subject. It is rapidly fatal, and, on removing the skin of the animal after death, a discoloration as from blood stagnation is apparent, generally near the shoulder.

**BLACKLEG**.—To *BLACKLEG IT*, i.e., amongst trades' union men to return to work before the causes of a strike have been removed, or settled, to the satisfaction of the leaders.

Early this morning the mountain paths leading to the William Penn colliery were lined with men, dinner in hand, determined to go to work. Some were non-union miners, while the remainder were Knights of Labor who had determined to *BLACKLEG IT*, regardless of the jeers and threats of their companions.

**BLACKLIST, To**.—To post as a defaulter. *Blacklists* in mercantile parlance are registers of bankrupts, insolvent persons, and others whose credit has been shaken.

The Charity Organization Society has been sued for 25,000 dols. damages for libel by Bertram Hugh Fitzhugh Howell, who says he was at one time a banker in this city and failed in business. He charges that the society *BLACKLISTED* him.—*Chicago Herald*.

**BLACK NIGGER**.—A term of reproach addressed by one negro to another. It is difficult to ascertain to a nicety the exact shade of meaning, as the speaker is sometimes of more dusky hue than the person

addressed. That negroes themselves recognise a difference, may be inferred from the simile which speaks of "a negro so black, that charcoal makes a chalk mark on him."

**BLACK OINTMENT.**—A slang term for uncooked meat.

**BLACK REPUBLICANS.**—The epithet BLACK was applied by Southerners to the Republican Party, on account of the antagonism shown by the latter to the introduction of slavery into any State where not already recognised.

**BLACK-RIDING** (College).—At the College of South Carolina, it has until within a few years been customary for the students, disguised and painted black, to ride across the College yard at midnight, on horseback, with vociferations and the sound of horns. *Black-riding* is recognized by the laws of the College as a very high offence, punishable with expulsion.—*Hall's College Words and Customs*.

**BLACKSNAKE, To.**—To castigate with a *blacksnake* whip.

Now, don't ever let me catch you chewing tobacco before breakfast again, or I lay I'll BLACKSNAKE you within an inch of your life!  
—*Mark Twain's Screemers*.

—**BLACKSNAKE WHIP.**—A short-handled but very long-thonged whip used by cowboys.

**BLACK SPY.**—A cant name for the devil.

**BLACK STRAP.**—(1) Properly speaking, gin mixed with molasses, but frequently applied to a compound of any alcoholic liquor with molasses. Beverages of this description were at one time the

commonest of drinks among agricultural laborers. In England, thick, sweet port is known as *blackstrap*.

From the great iron kettle a savory incense arose: it came from an admixture of high-wines and common molasses, in about the proportion of one gallon of the latter to four of the spirit . . . . The seething BLACKSTRAP was pronounced ready for use. It rapidly disappeared, and, as it diminished and was imbibed, the fun and hilarity proportionately increased.—*Pinkerton's Mollie Maguires and Detectives*.

—(2) Among sugar manufacturers *blackstrap* is the technical term for the residuum of molasses sugar, itself the product of a second boiling.

**BLACK TAGGERS.**—Common rough, unwrought iron.

The fact that the article in question may be commercially known as BLACK TAGGERS has no bearing on the question of classification under the statute, the merchandise containing in itself unmistakable proof that it is steel and not iron.—*Philadelphia Bulletin*, February 27, 1888.

**BLACK TAIL DEER OR BLACKTAILS** (*Cervus columbianus*).—A species of deer common to the Pacific littoral. It is considerably larger than the red deer . . . . in colour it is very dark, grey or mouse-colour . . . . its tail, unlike the broad, white flag of the red deer, is rather thinly haired, and the end is tipped for two or three inches with a thick tuft of short black hair, which gives the name to the animal. . . . Its ears are rather long and heavy, from which circumstance it is in some parts of the country called the MULE DEER.

**BLACKWOOD.**—A comprehensive term in the Northern States for the timber of the hemlock, pine, spruce, and fir.



**BLADDER-TREE.**—Bigelow in his *Flora bostoniensis*, describes this as a handsome shrub from six to ten feet high, remarkable for its large, inflated capsules.

**BLAMED.**—An expletive used to emphasize a statement. It partakes slightly of the nature of an oath. Possibly English, but if so only slang; in the States it is colloquial.

And so that pourin' dissensions in our cup;  
And so that **BLAMED** cow-critter was always coming up.

—*Carlton Farm Ballads*, p. 18.

'Why do you object to your daughter marrying?'

'Wouldn't object ef she wuster marry the right sorter man.'

'Isn't Tom the right sort of man?'

'Not by a **BLAMED** sight.'—*Portland Transcript*, 1888.

**BLANKET.**—To HAVE WORN THE **BLANKET** is an imputation which, when applied to one's immediate progenitors, signifies that the person addressed is of Indian descent. The costume of the red-skin, whether composed of the typical *blanket* alone or of more complex clothing, is generally referred to as a *blanket*, hence the significance of the expression. — **BLANKET COAT.**—As red-skins gradually came in contact with, and under the influence more or less of civilization, they aped many of the customs and habits peculiar to white men. The *blankets*, therefore, which at one time largely formed a staple of trade and exchange, instead of being worn thrown loosely around the body, were cut and shaped into coats, the coloured stripes of the *blankets* being so arranged as to cross the garment in the most odd and fantastic fashion. Also worn by trappers and hunters.

The fourth member of our party round the camp-fire that night was a powerfully-built trapper, partly French by blood, who wore

a gaily-coloured capote, or **BLANKET-COAT**, a greasy fur cap, and moccasins.—*Century Magazine*, Oct., 1888.

—**BLANKET INDIAN.**—A Western term for an Indian who still remains in a savage state. Only about 250,000 red-skins are, at the present time, scattered about throughout the Union, chiefly in the tracts of country called Indian reservations. Of this number, 120,000 are reckoned to have been brought under civilizing influences, the remainder being counted as savages. It must, however, be confessed that rarely, if ever, is the "noble red man" of Fenimore Cooper, Gustav Aimard, and other writers, to be met with; also that any attempt at civilization means, in the generality of cases, nothing more nor less than the improvement of the red man off the face of the earth altogether. This is owing largely to the facility with which this savage race, like all others, imitates the white man's vices without in any degree acquiring his virtues.—**MACKINAW BLANKET.**—A superior kind of *blanket* which derived its distinctive name from the island of Mackinaw, formerly one of the chief posts at which Indian tribes received their grants from the Government. A provision of one of the Indian Treaties was that part of the payment made to the red-skins should be in these superior blankets, and from that fact the name *Mackinaw blankets*, or *Mackinaws* simply was derived.

**BLANKETY.**—A euphemistic oath, the derivation of which is clearly an outcome of the practice of representing an oath in printing by a dash or blank space *e.g.*, d—d. *Blankety* is used in many combinations, a person being told to be *blankety blank blanked*, or that a thing is not as good as another by a *blankety blank blank* sight.

The captain looked anxious, and an irate fellow-passenger, who had not ceased swearing since we left Tuxpan, declared by all that is sacred and profane that he had known vessels to be hindered thirty days; yes, even three months, by that BLANKETY BLANKETY bar!—*Troy Daily Times*, Feb. 3, 1888.

'Doctor, I'm a dead man!'

'Not right now?' said I, as I kicked his dog out.

'Just as good as dead,' said he, 'or you wouldn't kick that dog in that way with safety. Not by a BLANKETY BLANK BLANK sight.'

'Needn't waste so much profanity, Mr. Starkhill,' said I.—*Owosso (Mich.) Press*, April, 1888.

**BLARNEY, To (Cant).**—Besides the English slang signification of "to wheedle," it also bears the secondary meaning of "to pick locks" amongst the low and criminal classes of America.

**BLATANCY.** — Noisy self-assertion. This word, in spite of its orthodox appearance, has not yet been admitted to the dictionaries.

**BLATHER, BLATHERSKITE.**—Factitious Western expressions for boastful, disputatious swagger; in some parts of England a somewhat similar phrase, "blatheration" is current. According to De Vere all are of Irish origin, and J. R. O'Flanigan's *Lives of the Lord Chancellors of Ireland* is quoted in support of this contention. Lord Redesdale was speaking of people who learned to skate with bladders under their arms to buoy them up if they should fall into a hole and risk being drowned. "Ah, my Lord," said Toler, "that is what we call bladderum skate in Ireland." This derivation, however, seems too fanciful a one, and probably the word "blatant," noisy vaporing, is the true source from which these words originate.

Every BLATHERSKITE Republican spouter is filled to the brim and spouting high pro-

tection, while the Democrats are not prepared to meet them for want of documents.—*New York Herald*, July 29, 1888.

Dr. Brookes, of St. Louis, must be a nice man to live with. He refers to Dr. R. W. Dale and Dr. Parker as 'blatant BLATHERSKITES,' and evidently regards Professor Drummond as beyond reformation.—*Chicago Watchman*.

**BLATT, To.**—To talk with noisy assurance and bluster; doubtless a derivative of "blatant."

It is not so easy now to rattle off the names of disreputable Democratic 'chiefs' as it was in Bill Tweed's day. But now, one of these insects of an hour rears up and BLATTS, every monkey organ in the land needs put on its BLATING-STOP and grinds away in a frenzy.—*San Francisco News Letter*, February 4, 1888.

**BLAUSER** (*Vipera berus*).—Dutch blazer. The deaf adder.

**BLAZE.**—The early settlers in traversing the vast forests which abounded on the American continent found it very necessary to mark their route. This they did by the simple expedient of *blazing* the trees at convenient distances. *Blazing* consists merely in chopping a piece of the bark off each tree selected in the desired line of march. The mark itself is called a *blaze*. In addition to this, *blazing* was also adopted as an indication that the land within the limits of the trees thus marked had been appropriated by a settler—a rude and informal, but, in early days, a thoroughly well recognized method of securing a title to the land. Some writers affect to derive the word from the old French *blazon* the armorial bearing of the Normans, and quote the use of "blazen," by Shakespeare, in a sense not altogether dissimilar to the meaning conveyed by *blazing*, as proof to this effect. It is doubtful, therefore, whether the word is a genuine Americanism; at all events

it is in general use in nearly all English colonies, especially those, like Australia, where there have been, or are still, large tracts of primeval forest land. The white *blaze* or spot in the forehead of a horse will also be familiar. Hence probably TO BLAZE and TO BLAZE OUT in the sense of marking out, etc.

The direct ascent of the peak is no small task. There is very little trail just here. The trees have been marked or BLAZED, and that is about all.—*New York Herald*, July 29, 1888.

Adam was created first, and it does not seem unlikely that Eve, when she found that Adam had preceded her in the creation, felt piqued about it. Possibly, Adam may have tried to excuse himself by saying it was an unexplored region, and it was necessary for him to BLAZE the way. At all events, Eve and her daughters have headed the family procession ever since.—*Texas Siftings*, July 7, 1888.

—BLAZE (in Poker).—A hand which consists of five court cards, and which, when played, beats two pairs.

**BLAZING STARS** (*Aletris farinosa*).—A medicinal plant held in great esteem by the Indians, and still in request in the West, for its medicinal virtues. It is also known as the DEVIL'S BIT. The term *blazing stars* is also popularly given to a plant belonging to the genus called *colchicum*. It may be remarked that its name of DEVIL'S BIT is probably derived from the well-known legend to the effect that the devil bit off a portion of the root in order to destroy its medicinal properties. The same story is applied to many other medicinal roots.

**BLEAK.**—In the phraseology of American thieves, *bleak* means handsome.

**BLEEDING KANSAS.**—During the border troubles resulting from the

passage of the Kansas Nebraska Bill (1854), there was fighting of a more or less organized description, and many FREE SOIL advocates were killed. *Bleeding Kansas* became a popular phrase with the Northern orators of the day, and was used scoffingly by those on the other side. It is believed to have been originally coined as a newspaper headline by the *New York Tribune*, and representing the sympathies of large numbers of people it became a rallying cry, which has long survived the circumstances which first gave it birth.

'BLEEST.—Obliged; forced. "I was 'bleest to come."

**BLINKER, To.**—To plunder. A cant phrase which originated during the Civil War.

**BLICKY.**—A tin pail. A Dutch survival from *bliek*, tin (German *blech*). New York and New Jersey.

**BLIND.**—(1) (In poker).—The ante deposited by the age previous to the deal. The *blind* may be doubled by the player to the left of the eldest hand, and the next player to the left may, at his option, straddle this bet; and so on, including the dealer, each player doubling. The player to the left of the age alone has the privilege of the first straddle, and, if he decline to straddle, it debars any other player coming after him from doing so. To make a *blind* good costs double the amount of the ante, and to make a straddle good costs four times the amount of the *blind*. Each succeeding straddle costs double the preceding one.—See BLIND POKER.—Slang for "object"; "intention." "You see my *blind*," that is, the drift of



what I am saying. A curious illustration of the custom of some classes to use phraseology calculated to mislead all but those initiated into the mysteries of their jargon. In English slang *blind* means a pretence or make-believe, but this signification by no means follows on the American usage.

Now you talk! You see my *BLIND* and straddle it like a man.—*Mark Twain's The Innocents at Home*, p. 19.

—TO GO IT *BLIND*.—A luminous figure of speech to convey the idea of entering upon an undertaking without thought as to the result, or inquiry beforehand. This is one of the many slang expressions which owe their origin to the American game of poker, the special form of which known as *BLIND POKER* (*q.v.*), where the cards are betted upon before being looked at, is responsible for the phrase now in question.

'And so you've married a jewel, have you, Tom?' 'I have, for a fact, Dick.' 'Lucky dog! You're a man in a million. Mighty few go it *BLIND* and fare as well as you've done.' 'I didn't go it *BLIND*. I employed a detective, and he managed to get board in the family.'—*Chicago Ledger*, May 12, 1888.

**BLIND EEL.**—Among fishermen, "to catch a *blind eel*" is to bring to the surface a piece of seaweed or some other worthless object in place of the fish supposed to have been hooked; and metaphorically the expression signifies obtaining a result of little worth compared with that sought; fruitless endeavour.

**BLIND POKER.**—A form of poker largely patronised by those whose gambling propensities are keenly developed. Poker at its best is little else than a game of chance, but in *blind poker* the hazards are indefinitely increased by betting on the cards in one's hand prior to examination.—*See POKER*.

**BLINKERS.**—**BLANK YOUR BLINKERS.**—A euphemistic oath, equivalent to the more common "D—n your eyes."

'BLANK YOUR BLINKERS,' angrily retorted Brudee, 'your business was not to fight, but show us the enemy.'—*American Humorist*.

**BLIVVY.**—A command. Used as in quotation.

If the comp'ny was fer to come 'round an' say, 'Yer got ter wear plug hats an' kid gloves er quit workin' on th' road,' why, that'd be a diff'rent matter altogether—see? But, as I understand it, they don't make no such break as that. They don't give them no *BLIVVY* at all, but merely says, 'Here, go on an' wear white shirts an' collars now an' be decent.'—*The World* (New York), May 13, 1888.

**BLIZZARD.**—This word, recently brought into prominent notice as the name by which sudden and exceptionally severe snowstorms are known in the Western States, is one the etymology of which is dubious. Some authorities derive it from the German *blitz*—lightning, but a correspondent of *Notes and Queries* claims it as of English nationality, asserting that the word has been known in the Midland counties in its present form, or nearly so, for over thirty years; further stating that "may I be *blizzared*" is a common oath there. Assuming that the expression is a variation of the more generally familiar "May God strike me blind" (that is, presumably by lightning) there is nothing antagonistic between the two theories of its genesis, and a further light is perhaps thrown upon the subject, tending to support its German origin, by the fact that, in Pennsylvania, it has been familiar, according to a correspondent of the *New York Sun*, for more than half-a-century, its use and meaning being akin to the instances above mentioned. It appears that in the

central counties of the State in question, the word was always used to include the idea of a "poser," and even of force, violence, spitefulness, or vindictiveness. If one dealt another a hostile blow he "gave him a *blizzard* on the nose," "on the jaw," "between the eyes," etc. If a magistrate lectured a litigant severely he "gave him a *blizzard*." If in debate one dealt mercilessly in ridicule he "gave his opponent a *blizzard*." If one man swore at or cursed another he "gave him a *blizzard*." If a man's wife scolded him she "gave him a *blizzard*." When it is remembered that Pennsylvania is the State in which the Dutch or German element most largely predominates it does not seem far fetched to attribute its origin to a Teutonic source, more especially as there is nothing in the English usage to preclude such a derivation. However this may be, the word invariably seems to imply suddenness combined with violence; and, at any rate, it apparently disposes of the supposition that the word is of Western origin or a coinage of so recent a date as is frequently supposed. Like most words of its class, which have largely struck the popular taste, it has been generally adopted in an idiomatic sense to signify a stunning blow; an overwhelming argument; or a cool reception.

I should like to have seen the Colonel's face when he got that very cold, *BLIZZARDY* letter. I bet that if Minnie had been near him he would have slapped her real hard.—*San Francisco News Letter*, 1888.

**BLOAT** (Cant).—A drowned body; also a drunkard. The simile which groups the two is, perhaps, not far wrong.

**BLOATED EELS**.—A Connecticut term for eels prepared for cooking by being skinned and drawn.

**BLOCK**.—Long usage has now sanctioned the employment of this word in England in its enlarged American sense.—(1) A set of houses enclosed between four streets.—(2) A long row or mass of buildings; or, indeed, a whole portion of a town. In some parts of the States **SQUARE** is used instead of *block* in an identical sense. The employment of *block* as an adjective is, however, only just creeping into use here, but such a combination has long been current in Wall Street, as for example, a *block* loan, a *block* advance, a *block* of shares, etc. \*

**BLOCK HOUSE** (Cant).—The house of detention.

**BLOCK ISLAND TURKEY**.—Salted codfish. Connecticut and Rhode Island.

**BLOOD**.—At some of the Western colleges this word signifies excellent; as, "a *blood* recitation." A student who recites well is said "to make a *blood*."

**BLOOD AND THUNDER TALES**.—Low-class fiction, the term being generally applied to works dealing with the exploits of desperadoes, cut-throats, and other criminals. Also called **PENNY DREADFULS**, **GUTTER LITERATURE**, **SHILLING SHOCKERS**, etc.

Here let me say one word to the *Transcript* mothers. Look carefully to your child's reading matter. Beware of the cheap, trashy romances, the **BLOOD AND THUNDER TALES**, by Tom, Dick and Harry, which fill the counters of so many of our bookstores.—*Portland Transcript*.

**BLOODED**.—An adjective used when speaking of thoroughbreds in horses or choice breeds in cattle. "Blood" similarly applied is, of course, quite well-known in England, but not the form *blooded*.

**BLOODEE.**—In the *Farmer's Weekly Museum*, formerly printed at Walpole, N. H., appeared August 21, 1797, a poetic production, in which occurred these lines :—

Seniors about to take degrees,  
Not by their wits, but by *bloodees*.

In a note the word *bloodee* was thus described : " A kind of cudgel worn, or rather borne, by the bloods of a certain college in New England, two feet five inches in length, and one inch and seven-eighths in diameter, with a huge piece of lead at one end, emblematical of its owner ; a pretty prop for clumsy travellers on Parnassus."

**BLOOD ROOT** (*Sanguinaria canadensis*).—The puccoon of the Indians, the blood-red juice of the root of which is largely used as a coloring pigment. The Indian name means literally, "of the color of blood." It bears a pure white blossom, and is one of the earliest of wild flowers.

**BLOOD TUBS.**—A cognomen applied to a band of Baltimore roughs, who, Bartlett says, were chiefly butchers. They got their epithet from having, on an election day, dipped an obnoxious German's head in a tub of warm blood, and then driven him running through the town. Baltimore seems to have given rise to many such names ; among others to PLUG-UGLIES.

**BLOODY CHASM.**—TO BRIDGE THE BLOODY CHASM was a favorite expression with orators who, during the years immediately succeeding the Civil War, sought to obliterate the memory of the struggle. The antithetical phrase is TO WAVE THE BLOODY SHIRT (*q.v.*).

**BLOODY SHIRT.**—TO WAVE THE BLOODY SHIRT.—A phrase which is only one

of many of a similar character, variants such as " to wave the crimson banner," " the ensanguined under garment," etc., being quite as frequently met with in American journalism. It is a political phrase used in the States to signify the opening anew or keeping alive of factious strife on party questions. Primarily it was the symbol of those who, during the Reconstruction period at the close of the rebellion of the Southern or Confederate States, would not suffer the Civil War to sink into oblivion out of consideration for the feelings of the vanquished. Perhaps a more odious term never crept into politics than the *bloody shirt* ; it is alike distasteful to the sense, brutal and vulgar, and capable of misuse. There are still those who, in American politics, in the thousand and one points of difference which continually and inevitably must arise between institutions so diverse in origin, tradition, and practice as those of the North and South, seek for party purposes to estrange the one from the other by keeping alive the exciting memories of the old bitter struggle. When a man is said to have *waved the bloody shirt* it is known that he has gone back in spirit and intent to the sorrowful days of the Republic when the blue and the grey, each confident of battling for the right, were slaying each other in the valleys of the South. He ignores the peace which has settled over the old fields of war, and does not assent to the hand clasp of Federal with Confederate. He tries to open the strife anew, mocks the spirit of forgiveness, and rakes the old ashes over in the hunt for a burning coal. He scoffs at those who fought against the Union, and, because they have come back to it, calls them insincere. He rebukes the veteran who forgave them when



together they laid down their arms. This is called *waving the bloody shirt*, and to-day when many of those now in active life cannot remember the time when the Rebellion had closed, and the boys were marching home, there are legislators and journalists who devote their efforts to stirring up a sectional hatred which without these efforts would be but a tradition. Many Southerners keenly resent the spirit which thus traduces the now loyal South, and declare it hypocritical. The BLOODY SHIRTERS, as they are called, rail at the decency which forgives and forgets, and with venomous tongues revile alike those who fell in the lost cause, those who lived to repent, and those who would grant pardon. So long as men lost to honor will do this the action must have a name—it will be called *waving the bloody shirt*. From this special meaning it is now passing into general use to indicate similar tactics in regard to any cause. It has recently been introduced into English journalism in connection with the Irish struggle, and the so-called Unionist Party has been accused of *waving the bloody shirt*—with how much truth or the reverse there is here no concern. The origin of the expression is to be sought in a Corsican custom now nearly, if not quite, obsolete. In the days of the fierce vendette—the feuds which divided the Corsicans family from family—bloodshed was a common occurrence. Before the burial of a murdered man the gridata was celebrated. This word, which literally means a crying aloud, may be translated "a wake." The body of the victim was laid upon a plank; his useless firearms were placed near his hand, and his blood-stained shirt was hung above his head. Around the rude bier sat a circle of women,

wrapped in their black mantles, who rocked themselves to and fro with strange wailings. The men, relatives and friends of the murdered man, fully armed, stood around the room, mad with thirst for revenge. Then one of the women—the wife or mother or sister of the dead man—with a sharp scream would snatch the *bloody shirt*, and waving it aloft begin the vocero—the lamentation. This rhythmic discourse was made up of alternate expressions of love for the dead, and hatred of his enemies; and its startling images and tremendous curses were echoed in the faces and mutterings of the armed mourners. Its application to American politics is credited to Mr. Oliver P. Morton, who, elected United States senator in 1867, and again in 1873, took a prominent part as a leader of the more radical Republicans, favoring a stern policy of coercion in the reconstruction of the Southern States. He was one of the Presidential candidates at the Cincinnati convention of 1876, his name standing second on the first ballot. Happily, however, his opinions were too pronounced to unite the factions of his party, and the ultimate choice fell upon Mr. Hayes.

The BLOODY SHIRT is gradually fading away. The white-winged dove of peace spreads her wings here and there, patriotism forgets and forgives old differences, sectionalism is gradually giving way to love of country—the whole country. In fact the ill feeling between the North and South would have died out years ago among the veterans of both sections, had they been left alone, and the politicians been as patriotic as they.—*Coldwater (Mich.) Sun*, 1888.

It is reprehensible to the last degree for the Bourbons of the South to continue to play on the colour line—the Southern BLOODY SHIRT—and then denounce Republican extremists for doing the same thing at the North.—*New York Weekly Times*, March 21, 1888.

**BLOOMER.**—(1) A special costume introduced by a lady of the same name which is too well-known to need description. Dr. Mary Walker will be remembered as having introduced it into this country. It approaches very nearly to the costume of Turkish ladies. —(2) In the West Indies, especially Demerara, the term *bloomer* is applied to a chemical largely used to impart a brilliancy to vacuum pan sugar—hence its name.

**BLOOTWORSCHT.**—The BLUTWURST or BLOOD-SAUSAGE of the Pennsylvania Dutch; very similar to the English black pudding.

**BLOTTER.**—A newspaper term for the charge sheet kept at police stations.

He had been entered on the **BLOTTER** as a vagrant, fifty-four years old, of German descent, and without a home.

**BLOW.**—A single blossom. Compare with **BLOWTH**, provincial English for blossoming in general. *Blow* is, however, rarely heard nowadays. —**TO BLOW.**—The unorthodox meanings attached to this word partake more or less of slang, and most of them are as familiar in England as in America; e.g., "blow up," a severe scolding; a "blow out," a gluttonous feast. One variant of "blow up," however, "to blow up sky high," may claim American birth, and is characteristic of the thorough energy which Americans infuse into all their actions. There are besides other meanings. (1) To talk boastfully or swaggeringly, varied in Tennessee by **BLOWIN' HIS BAZOO**. One who indulges in such gasconade and braggadocio is called a **BLOWER**. —(2) Among thieves, in the sense of to inform or expose, a meaning also common to the

criminal classes of London and other large cities. —(3) To blame; to cast a slur upon; or to stigmatize.

**BLOWEN.**—The mistress of a thief.

**BLOWER.**—(1) This name, applied to the draught-producing sheet of iron attached to furnaces, is of American origin. —(2) A vain-glorious magniloquent braggart; one who indulges in self-glorification.

**BLOWHARD.**—A Western term of revilement, the precise meaning of which it would be difficult to explain, since a newcomer may, in one and the same breath, be called a **BLARSTED BRITISHER**, a **COYOTE**, and a *blowhard*. If all these are synonymous, then indeed the Englishman in America is in a bad way.

**BLOW OF COTTON.**—A Southern phrase employed when the pods of the cotton plant burst; from the Old English "blowth," a blossoming.

**BLOWTH.**—A blossom.—Wright's *Dictionary of Obsolete and Provincial English*. The word is still preserved in New England.

**BLUEBACKS.**—The paper money of the Confederates. A cant name, originating, as in the case of United States paper currency **GREENBACKS**, in the color of the printing on the reverse. A more pronounced slang name, subsequently applied to *bluebacks* was **SHUCKS**, from their worthlessness after the war. "Shucks" is an old English term for the refuse of peas and similar products when shelled.

**BLUE BELLIES.**—A nickname bestowed by Southerners, during the Civil

War, upon their opponents of the North, whose uniform was blue. They were also called BOYS IN BLUE (*q.v.*), YANKS, etc. The Southerners, on the other hand, received such names as THE SECESH, REBS, and JOHNNY REBS, the latter being sometimes shortened to JOHNNIES. The grey uniform of the Confederates likewise caused them to be styled BOYS IN GREY.

**BLUE CAT.**—A fish common in all the plains streams, attaining sometimes a weight of fifteen to twenty-five pounds. The large fish are coarse, but the smaller ones are fine eating.

**BLUE CURLS** (*Trichostema dichotomum*).—Also called BASTARD PENNYROYAL; its habits and its flowers, deep blue in color, resemble that plant.

**BLUE-FISH.** (*Temnodon saltator*).—A salt-water fish of the mackerel order, but larger in size. It is one of the most voracious fishes on the Atlantic coast. It bites readily at any object drawn rapidly through the water; *e.g.*, a bone squid or metal spoon, a minnow, a white rag, and, in fact, any conspicuous bait. On the Jersey coast, these fish are called HORSE-MACKEREL; and in Virginia SALT-WATER TAILORS. Another name is the SKIP-JACK. On the Jersey coast, the name *blue-fish* is applied to the WEAK-FISH, SQUETEAGUE, or CHICKWIT.

**BLUE GRASS** (*Poa compressa*).—A rich and valuable meadow grass which flourishes on the limestone lands of Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Kentucky, especially the latter, which thus derives its name of the BLUE GRASS STATE, its inhabitants being similarly designated. *Blue grass* serves as fodder for cattle

nearly all the year round, and the *blue grass* region is, therefore, essentially a grazing country with many famous stock-farms and stud-stables.

There is plenty of grass—at certain seasons—in America, but except where artificially cultivated, the grass is not of the right kind. The best grass in America, the BLUE GRASS of Kentucky and Southern Indiana, would horrify the ground keepers at Lord's and Kennington Oval if it grew in any part of those famous cricket-fields. They would as soon see pebbles as the strong blades of Bermuda grass.—*Pittsburg Despatch*, July 29, 1888.

—THE TEXAS BLUE GRASS (*Poa arachnifera*) considerably resembles Kentucky *blue grass*, but seems better adapted to a more Southern range, where its chief value is for winter pasture. Like Bermuda grass it is grown from sets as well as seeds. It thrives best on heavy soil.

**BLUE HEN'S CHICKENS.**—The inhabitants of Delaware. This nickname arose thus; Captain Caldwell, an officer of the first Delaware regiment in the American War of Independence, was noted for his love of cock-fighting. Being personally popular, and his regiment becoming famous for their valor, they were soon known as "game cocks"; and as Caldwell maintained that no cock was truly game unless its mother was a blue-hen, his regiment, and subsequently Delawareans generally, became known as *blue hen's chickens*, and Delaware as the BLUE HEN STATE for the same reason. A boaster is also often brought to book by the sarcasm, "Your mother was a blue hen no doubt."

**BLUE LAWS.**—Rigid enactments which from time to time were put in force in the United States, the harsh and unbending import of which is explained as follows:—



Among the great questions that have divided the Union, some, dating from the time before the late Civil War, have become known by special names. Already in the earliest days of the Republic, the BLUE LAWS of New England excited uncommon interest at home and abroad. Connecticut is still often mentioned as the BLUE STATE, unquestionably from its being the original stronghold of the Presbyterians, who were once known by the contemptuous name of BLUE SKINS. Even generations afterwards, when the inhabitants of the land of steady habits were accused of having made signals along the coast for the benefit of the British, during the war of 1812, the lights on the coast of Connecticut were called BLUELIGHTS, adding a new word to the vocabulary of treason. The charge, it is said, was utterly unfounded, but the term has survived to this day, and is frequently used in political controversies. The famous laws of New Haven, also, perhaps the most striking illustration of the innate tendency of the human heart towards intolerance, are known as the BLUE LAWS, thus joining them to the BLUE LAWS of all the colonies of New England, among which they were the last to secure a sad pre-eminence. Their authenticity has often been denied, and Dr. Peter's well-known book on the subject has been declared a libel; as, for instance, by a well-informed correspondent of *Notes and Queries* (vol. xi. p. 321) writing from the State Library at Hartford, Connecticut. They are, however, repeatedly quoted by good authorities, as by Judge Haliburton (*English in America*, vol. i., p. 314), and are confirmed beyond any doubt by the reprint of the 'Abstract of Laws of New England,' in Governor Hutchinson's *Collection of Papers*, London, 1655, where the identical provisions may be found. They fully illustrate the characteristic words of the melancholy lawgiver of Shawmut, that, he had left England because he did not like the Lord Bishops, but that he could not live under the Lord Brethren. The term BLUE was even more extensively used in America, than in the Mother Country, and was more especially employed to characterize the laws as brutally strict and bloody. It must, however, not be concluded that BLUE LAWS, in this sense of the word, were strictly confined to the New England States. The early settlements in Virginia, with all their abhorrence of Puritanism, enacted very similar regulations. Here also swearing was severely punished: here also the Church required attendance on all its services, under heavy penalties, and here also domestic discipline was enforced by public laws, only the Church was the established Church of England, and the fines were all paid in tobacco. Whatever may be thought of these stern Puritans as lawgivers, their memory is dear and sacred to all New Englanders.

**BLUE LIGHT.**—At the University of Vermont this term is used to designate a boy who sneaks about college, and reports to the Faculty the short-comings of his fellow-students.

**BLUE LIGHTNING.**—One of the grimly facetious names with which Texans have christened revolvers. At times a dispute has literally been a word, a flash of *blue lightning* and—certain death.

**BLUE NOSES.**—The natives of Nova Scotia. A nickname given them by the Yankees in allusion, it is said, to a potato of that name which Nova Scotians claim to be the best in the world. Proctor, however, thinks differently, and says he would wager that the Nova Scotians were called *blue noses* before the potato which they rear was so named, and hazards the suggestion that the nickname refers to the blueness of nose resulting from intense cold.

**BLUE PENCIL, To.**—To mark with a pencil.

A studio is located among the dull green depths of the sombre wood, and there Mrs. Gilder paints, and the editor of the *Century Magazine* BLUE PENCILS magazine articles by the bushel during the heated term.—*New York Herald*, July 29, 1888.

**BLUE PERCH.**—A fish known also as the NIBBLER (*q.v.*).

**BLUE PILL.**—A bullet; also called BLUE PLUM.

**BLUE SKINS.**—An epithet applied to Presbyterians because of their stern and sturdy adherence to principles believed by them to be true.—See BLUE LAWS.

**BLUE STOCKING** (*Recurvirostra americana*).—The avocet. One of the

feathered tribe very common in the Northern States.

**BLUETS** (*Olden tandria cerulea*).—A herbaceous plant which, in the spring, produces a profusion of pale blue flowers fading to white, with yellowish eyes. By some they are also called *QUAKERS*.

**BLUE WEED** (*Chicorium*).—The wild endive, or chicory plant, is so called in New England from its large dark-blue flowers.

**BLUFF**.—A variety of the card game of poker, in which each player has alternately the option of raising the stake on his adversaries. These may either accept the same, showing their hands, or *bluff* with a yet higher, or retire at a sacrifice of all they have contributed.—To **BLUFF**.—To bluster; to carry things with a high hand. "You don't *bluff* me," that is, you don't impose upon my credulity by big talk. The term thus used is, without doubt, derived from the game of *bluff*, and we also get the expression, TO **BLUFF ON POKER**, that is, to lay odds on a worthless hand as if it were a good one, thus deceiving one's opponent. Hence **BLUFFER**, a braggart.

The American man-of-war sent to Tangiers [in connection with a recent diplomatic imbroglio] has four small guns, and could be blown out of the water in five minutes by the guns of the Moors. Is Uncle Sam a **BLUFFER**?—*Detroit Free Press*, May 5, 1888.

They did not know how many [men] he had, and seeing him so bold in the face of them, thought he could outnumber them. It was a **BLUFF** game and he won.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, April 29, 1888.

**BLUFF CITY**.—Hannibal, in Missouri, from the fact of its being built on high *bluffs* or steep banks on the margin of the river.

**BLUFFER**.—In the patter of New York thieves, the landlord of an hotel.

**BLUMMIE, BLUMMACHEE, BLUMMECHIES**.—A survival in New York State and on the Hudson River of the old Dutch days. Both *blummie* and its diminutives are frequently heard when speaking of flowers. German *blumen*.

**BOARDING HOUSE** (Cant).—In New York a nickname given to the Tombs, but it is equally applicable to any city prison. Sometimes called **BOARDING SCHOOL**.

**BOARD ROUND, To**.—A term little heard now, but once very common. It is to be traced back to the time when the settlers found it more convenient to pay in kind than in currency. In the rural districts of New England, a school-teacher, instead of receiving tuition fees from the parents of the children whom he taught, would be *boarded round* in rotation among those thus indebted to him. Needless to say, the custom has entirely disappeared in the New England States, and, indeed, is little known anywhere at the present time.

**BOARD-WALK**.—A foot-path constructed of planking. The "parade" of American watering-places.

Perhaps the greatest attraction of Asbury Park is the **BOARD-WALK**. It runs along the beach for over two miles.—*American Humorist*, Sept. 1, 1888.

**BOAT**.—To **BAIL ONE'S OWN BOAT**.—To be self-reliant.

**BOAT, To** (Cant).—To join as partner; evidently a corruption of "to be in the same boat."

**BOB** (Cant).—A petty shop thief.  
—**BOB** or **BOB SLED** or **BOB**

**SLEIGH.**—A sleigh used in the West for conveying large timber, its special characteristic being two pairs of *bobs* or short runners. A modified form is in popular use for sleighing parties. Instead of the seat-board being supported by straight wooden or iron standards, as is the case with the Western sled, the standard has a double ring joint, which works similarly to an eccentric. The object of the ring joint is to save the rider from a shock when the sled strikes any obstacle in the roadway. Instead of the rider being jarred or thrown, which is often the case with the old sled, the force of the shock is broken and confined altogether to the runners. Chair seats are also taking the place of boards on the large *bob sleds*. On each *bob* six or eight chairs are securely fastened to the long board, and the driver, as he may be called, has a seat immediately over the hindmost *bob*, where he guides the course of the coaster by means of a wheel which communicates with two iron rods connecting with the foremost *bob*. A headlight is placed in front to light the way for the driver, and also to warn all coasters coming up the hill to clear the track for the *bob sled*. So popular is sleighing as an amusement, that each village has its **BOBBING CLUB**, to membership in which, both sexes are admitted.

All the village **BOBBING CLUBS** will participate in the carnival at Albany to-morrow and Thursday nights, when the ice-yacht contest will be held. The **BOB** race will be held in the evening. There are seventy-eight entries for the **BOBBING** parade, which will follow the race.—*Troy Daily Times*, Jan. 31, 1883.

**BOB AROUND, TO.**—To go expeditiously from place to place; to make a round of calls. Although known in England in the same sense, this phrase is so favorite an expression

in America as to deserve special mention.

"In August last on one fine day,  
A **BOBBING AROUND AROUND**,  
When John and I went to make hay,  
We went a **BOBBING AROUND**."

**BOBOLINK** — (*Icterus agripennnis*) or ? (*Dolichonyx oryzivora*). — A bird which, in various parts of the Union, is called, by different names; indeed as De Vere remarks, America more perhaps than any other country suffers from a general lack of exact knowledge in natural history. This leads to profound ignorance of all that concerns animal, and especially bird life, except perhaps local habits. The same bird appears often under half a dozen various names in different parts of the Union; and again, distinct varieties are considered one because they are all called by the same name. Thus the *bobolink* a lively little creature, so called from its peculiar notes, besides being known as **BOB OF LINCOLN** is called the **REED-BIRD** in Delaware, the **RICE-BIRD** and **RICE-BUNTING** farther south, and the **MEADOW BIRD**, **MAY BIRD**, **BUTTER BIRD** in the W. Indies. **AMERICAN ORTOLAN** and the **SKUNK BLACKBIRD** in other parts. Most American poets have sung the *bobolink*; he is a general favorite alike because he comes in the spring with the first gleams of sunshine, and for his inimitable song and busy active flight. It is also highly esteemed as an article of food.

Merrily swinging on briar and weed  
Near to the nest of his little dame,  
Over the mountain side and mead  
Robert of Lincoln is telling his name—  
**BOB-O'-LINK, BOB-O'-LINK,**  
Spink, spank, spink.

—William Cullen Bryant.

**BOBTAIL CAR.**—The popular name for a small tram-car horsed by a



single animal, and on which the only official is a driver, whose office it is to collect fares and generally perform the duties of conductor in addition to his own. These vehicles have met with great opposition in American cities on account of the great danger to life and limb resulting from the driver's inability to attend properly to his own especial duty.

The ANTI-BOBTAIL CAR war, which has broken out in New York, has extended to this city. North-east Washington has held a meeting, appointed a grievance committee, and have pledged themselves not to deposit nor pass forward their own fare nor that of any other person on or after the 1st of September, 1888, in the one-horse cars of the Columbia Railway, but to tender it to any authorized person who shall come to collect the same. Congress, which utilizes Washington as an experimental legislative garden, might try the experiment of abolishing BOBTAIL CARS.—*The Christian at Work*, 1888.

**BOB-VEAL.**—Veal so immature as to be unfit for food. The law prohibits the sale of prematurely born calves, and veal under a certain age.

A prominent butcher, when questioned yesterday, said:—'It is time this traffic in shrimp and BOB-VEAL was stopped. If the public only knew how filthy some of the veal is that is sold, they would stop using it altogether.'—*San Francisco Weekly Examiner*, March 22, 1888.

**BOBWHITE.**—The American ruffed grouse (*Bonasa umbella*). A popular name derived from the drumming sound produced by the rapid beating of its wings (though some suppose it to be vocal). Owing to the unsatisfactory state of knowledge concerning bird life in America, this bird is confused with the partridge in New England, and with the quail and the pheasant in the Middle and Southern States.

**BOCKEY.**—From the Dutch *bokaal* denotes a vessel made from a gourd. The use of this term is

confined to New York city and its immediate neighbourhood.

**BODETTE.**—Of French-Canadian origin (French *beaudette*).—The name of a small cot or crib bedstead.

**BODEWASH.**—The dried dung of cattle, which, on the arid treeless plains of New Mexico and Texas, is largely used for fuel. This is the BUFFALO CHIP (*q.v.*) of the Western hunter and trader. In many parts little or no other fuel is obtainable, and even when green brushwood is at hand dried dung is used in preference, since it is a capital heat producer and gives forth less smoke. The word *bodewash* is a corruption of the French *bois de vache*.

**BODOK, BOWDARK** (*Maclura aurantiaca*).—The osage orange. A beautiful shrub, which flourishes in Missouri and Arkansas, the bright yellow, elastic wood of which is largely used by the Indians for their bows. In consequence it received the name *bois d'arc* from the French settlers, and gradually got corrupted into *bowdark*, and finally into *bodok*, by which name it is now generally known. The plant is easily dwarfed and rendered bushy by pruning, and is, therefore, much used for hedge-rows.

**BODY-COVER** (Cant).—A coat. One is almost tempted to ask whether this is the only garment known to the criminal classes.

**BODY-SNATCHER.**—A MEAN BODY-SNATCHER.—*See BLOWHARD.*

**BOGUE.**—Making a sudden appearance. New England. De Vere thinks this comes from the same root as bogey, and quotes it as in frequent use in the sense of coming suddenly upon men.

**BOGUS.**—Unreal; counterfeit; false.

Various accounts are given as to the genesis of this word, which though undoubtedly of American origin has now passed as completely into the vernacular as "burke" and "boycott." Bartlett merely quotes the accounts given by the *Boston Courier* in 1857 to the effect that the word is a vile corruption of the Italian name Borghese, a notorious swindler, who, about the year 1837, literally flooded the Western and South-western States with fictitious cheques, notes and bills of exchange and similar securities to an enormous amount. It is said that the name was gradually corrupted first to *borges* and then to *bogus*, and the man Borghese being associated in the popular mind with doubtful money transactions, his name so corrupted into *bogus* became applied to fraudulent papers and practices, and latterly to any spurious or counterfeit object, as *bogus* money, hair, diamonds, accusations, etc. James Russell Lowell, however, suggests another very different derivation of the word. He thinks it has descended in a corrupted form from the French *bagasse*, the refuse of the sugar cane after the juice has been expressed. This worthless product has, it is suggested, given the name to other worthless things, having travelled from Louisiana up the Mississippi, and thence throughout the Union, finally spreading itself over the English speaking world. Hence also **BOGUSLY** in a similar sense to the foregoing.

**BOHEA TEA.**—The *Bohea tea* of the States must not by any means be confounded with the well-known Chinese brand. The term simply means a dark tea made of every other shrub and plant but the Simon Pure.

**BOHN.**—A translation; a "pony." The volumes of Bohn's *Classical Library* are in such general use among undergraduates in American Colleges, that *Bohn* has come to be a common name for a translation.

'Twas plenty of skin with a good deal of  
BOHN.—*Songs, Biennial Jubilee Yale College*,  
1855.

**BOIES.**—According to American-Indian mythology, these are priests of the savages of Florida. Each priest has his special idol, which must be invoked by the fumes of tobacco.

**BOILED SHIRT, otherwise BILED SHIRT.**

—In the West *biled shirt* is the odd name given to one of white linen, and it is not difficult to see the line of reasoning from which the term derives its significance. In the active stirring life of the West little count is taken of the *convenances* of civilization, and only on Sundays and festive occasions would the woollen undergarment be discarded for the white linen article. Indeed, in many cases, the former would be worn until it literally dropped to pieces. Now white shirts are facetiously known as *biled shirts* all over the States, and only recently (May, 1888) a question in dispute between the employes of the Chicago Tramway Companies and the managers of the same was whether the former should wear, when on duty, colored or *biled shirts*.

'Go way, Ab'm, you sho'ly is childish!  
Git ter baid, case yer got ter pit on yo' BILED  
SHIRT in de mawnin' arly, en git radey fur  
chu'ch.'—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, Feb. 13, 1888.

Is it possible that the Chicagoans never heard of white shirts before this spring? May be the street-railway presidents never saw a starched shirt (I must deplore the use of the word **BILED** as applied to shirts) until this year.—*New York World*, May 13, 1888.

—This graceful appellation is sometimes varied by **BILED RAG**.

If a man wanted a fight . . . all he had to do was to appear in public in a white shirt and a stove-pipe hat . . . ; for they had a particular animosity to what they called a **BILED RAG**.—*Mark Twain's Innocents at Home*, chap. xii.

**BOIS D'ARC**.—See **BODOK**.

**BOIS DE VACHE**.—See **BODEWASH**.

**BOKE** (Cant).—The nose; possibly only a corruption of "beak" used in English cant with a similar meaning.

**BOLERO**.—A favorite Spanish dance. In Spain *bolero* is applied both to the dance and to the men who, on the stage, take part in it.

**BOLT**.—Used as a verb to indicate the right of the independently minded to revolt against partisan rule, as "He *bolted* the party nominations." Also pronominally, as "He has organized a *bolt*." The word derived this meaning from its sporting application to a horse when he becomes unmanageable on the race-course. It is rarely used with its dictionary meaning in political connections; and, when so used, is generally misunderstood by the average reader. Also **BOLTER**, one who exercises the right of abstention.

What the Register does object to are the fellows who **BOLT** the ticket and support the opposition candidate when they cannot control nominations.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, Feb. 3, 1888.

**BOMBO**.—A hedge-hog-like animal found in North Carolina, and by some called a **BADGER**.

**BOMBPROOFS**.—An epithet applied to a band of men who came from

Cis-Mississippi States and claimed that each one of their number was an equal match for ten Yankees.

—See **TEN STRIKERS**.

**BONANZA**.—The name of a mine in Nevada, which once, quite unexpectedly, turned out to be "a big thing," and of enormous value; now applied to any lucky hit or successful enterprise. The word is Spanish, meaning prosperity or success.

The mines along the veins running north and south, of which North Belle Isle is the centre, are all stayers, and in the east and west ledge Grand Prize has entered a body of ore which may develop into a **BONANZA** as big as the one which paid millions in dividends in years gone by.—*San Francisco News Letter*, Feb. 4, 1888.

**BONE**.—When a traveller, in passing his luggage through the Custom House, tips the officer in the expectation that the latter's examination of his *impedimenta* will be more or less superficial, the fee thus given is termed a *bone*. The practice is, of course, contrary to all regulations; but, human nature being human nature all the world over, it is believed that similar expedients for evading the law are not altogether unknown in England.

—**BONE PITS**.—Indian places of interment. These *bone pits* are found scattered throughout the United States and Canada, the practice among Indian tribes being to deposit such remains in long trenches or pits. This ceremony of consigning their dead to a final resting-place is called the "second burying," and occurs at intervals varying from eight to ten years. The custom was known to the early settlers as "the festival of the dead."—**BONES**.—Castanet-like instruments; properties of "negro" or, as they are better known in England (from some famous per-



formers in this line)—Christy Minstrels. Generally one of the "end men" performs with these instruments, and is, in consequence, dignified with the title of "Brudder Bones."—TO FEEL A THING IN ONE'S BONES.—A simile signifying assurance; conviction.

I ain't a-goin' to mention no names but I kin FEEL IT IN MY BONES that things ain't on the square here; there's a nigger on the fence.—*Scribner's Magazine*.

Nat M. Shelton of Lancaster said: 'I am in the race for attorney-general, and I FEEL IT IN MY BONES that I will get the nomination.'—*Missouri Republican*, February 22, 1888.

—ONE END IS PRETTY SURE TO BE BONE.—An old time saying equivalent to an admission that "all is not gold that glitters"; that the realization of one's hopes never comes up to the ideal formed of them.

People here (in the West) have to get up and get in order to make both ends meet, and even then ONE END IS PRETTY SURE TO BE BONE.—*The World*, May 13, 1888.

**BONESET** (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*).—

In England this is known as the thorough-wort. A medicinal plant much esteemed for its sudorific and tonic qualities. It owes its popular American name to the fact that it is generally regarded as a specific for the so-called BREAK BONE FEVER (*g.v.*). It is also reported to be one of the chief ingredients in the well-known Shaker preparations.

**BONESETTER**.—In thieves' cant a surgeon; it has also the secondary meaning of a hard riding horse. The sarcastic, punning reference is of course to the dire effects which naturally follow the use of an animal of such a description. The odd way in which American slang is often derived strikes one at times as very curious. Not only are words frequently coined which

resemble genuine words, such as "solemncholy" for "melancholy," and "it don't much magnify" for "it don't much signify," but the meaning of such factitious words is, in many cases, either subtly reversed or endowed with an extremely cynical tinge of humor and sarcasm. The present instance is a case in point. The BONESHAKER of the English rough corresponds exactly to the American *bonesetter*, but the latter is certainly far more brutally cynical in its suggestiveness than the former.

**BONEYARD**.—A cemetery.

When some roughs jumped the Catholic

BONEYARD,  
And started to take out town-lots in it.

—*Mark Twain's Innocents at Home*.

**BONING ADJUTANT**.—Aping a military bearing. From "to bone," to study; to imitate. So also BONING MUSCLE is to go in largely for gymnastics. To BONE STANDING, to study hard. West Point Cadet slang.

**BONNY BLUE FLAG**.—The BLUE FLAG, the standard of the Confederates was thus affectionately named. Round it gathered the whole sentiment and earnestness of the Southern cause.

**BONY FISH** (*Alosa menhaden*).—A fish largely found in New England waters and down the coast to the 35th parallel. It has many names, amongst which are WHITE-FISH, HARD-HEAD (Maine), MOSS-BUNKER (New York), PANHAGEN, MENHADEN (Massachusetts and Rhode Island), and SKIPPAUGS (New York). Like the herring, which it resembles, it is caught in enormous quantities, and besides being used for food, is also employed as manure.

**BOO-BOO, TO.**—The sounds made by a child when crying; as represented by *boo-boo*, have furnished our American cousins with a new verb, possessing a similar meaning, *i.e.*, to cry aloud; to make a bellowing noise; and, idiomatically, to be in a state of whining supplication. It is said to have been coined by Judge Halliburton, who, though not a native, is stated to have been the originator of several Americanisms.

**BOOBY HACK**, also **BOOBY HUT.**—A kind of sleigh, the body of the vehicle being framed like an ordinary carriage.

A serious coasting accident occurred at Fairmount late last night. A party of young girls and boys were coming down the steep grade at that point on a double ripper, at a terrific speed, when they collided with Crowley's **BOOBY HACK**, knocking the horse down and demolishing the front of the vehicle.—*Boston Daily Globe*, 1888.

**BOOBY HUTCH** (Cant).—A police station, so called no doubt from the light in which the criminal classes regard those who are foolish enough or unfortunate enough to get landed in such places.

**BOODLE.**—(1) This curious word seems to have come into prominent use in politics during the past five years. Some elections cannot be conducted without *boodle* first and last. *Boodle* does not mean the capital or stock-in-trade, except the business or trade be something secret, peculiar and illegal. *Boodle* always means money, but money is not always *boodle*. Money honestly received and spent, money that circulates in regular and honest channels, that appears in cash-book and ledger and expense account, is never *boodle*: but when a sum—a thousand dollars, more or less—is given to some one to use in influencing some third

party, given perhaps in silence and certainly without requiring any writing of acknowledgment or obligation—that is *boodle*. *Boodle* is money used for purposes of bribery and corruption; and the same word is used to indicate the money that comes as spoils, the result of some secret deal, the profits of which are silently divided. The term is also used to cover the ill-gotten gains of the bank robber, or the absconding cashier. "He carried away so much *boodle*." In elections the primaries have to be "fixed"; a great many men have to be "seen"; in short, the amount of money that it seems necessary in some cases to use to elect a few honest public servants is a thing to wonder at. And when these men are elected it appears that they often lose the power of distinguishing between "straight money" and *boodle*. The word seems destined to take its permanent place in the language.

The best man in the world cannot make an honest living by being a City Councilman. The office is an unsalaried one, and any money that is made out of it is *BOODLE*. This is the new term for plunder, fraud and every form of stealing that can be practised by office-holders, who, in the practice, add the crime of perjury. It is an easy business for men of easy virtue.—*Philadelphia Bulletin*, Feb. 24, 1888.

She presented a draft for 2000 dols., drawn upon a Detroit bank, and received the cash. Immediately after that she left for the East with the *BOODLE*, and there was no uneasy thought about her until the draft came back from Detroit dishonoured and pronounced spurious.—*St. Louis Daily Globe Democrat*, 1888.

Ike Hill, Esq., who has been so strongly, and on such high authority, represented as engaged in the distribution of *BOODLE*, is an officer of the National House, and has no opportunity there to vindicate himself without investigation. Perhaps the Republican members will be able to accommodate him in that respect.—*Cincinnati Weekly Gazette*, Feb. 22, 1888.

—(2) Its variants are almost numberless. Amongst the thieving

fraternity *boodle* is used to denote money that is actually spurious or counterfeit, and not merely money used for nefarious purposes, but which, as specie, is genuine enough.

—To CARRY BOODLE is to utter base coinage, and BOODLERS and shovers are the men who issue it. Swindlers of this type generally hunt in couples; one carrying the bulk of the counterfeit money, and receiving the good change as obtained by his companion, who utters the *boodle* piece by piece. The game is generally worked so that, at the slightest alarm, the BOODLE CARRIER vanishes and leaves nothing to criminate his confederate.

American—'As you are a native of Canada I suppose you think that country is all right, but for my part I should hate most awfully to be a subject of a queen.'

Canadian—'The queen is a mere figure-head; there is no difference at all between Canada and the United States.'

'Come to think, I believe you do have elections there.'

'I should say we did. We have elections and campaigns, and political parties and bosses, and ringsters, and BOODLERS and—'

'BOODLERS?'

'Plenty of 'em.'

'Well, well! Why, you are freemen just like us.'—*Omaha World*.

—(3) Another artifice of the kind very common among magmen is the FAKE BOODLE—a roll of paper over which, after folding, a dollar bill is pasted, and another bill being loosely wrapped round this it looks as if the whole roll is made up of a large sum of money in bills.—There is yet another meaning which, by an easy transition, this word has come to possess, one identical with the slang expressions dust; pieces; rhino; oof; etc., for money. *Boodle* is of Dutch origin from *boedel* pronounced *boodle*. In its primary sense it means "household stuff," and refers to property left by a testator. It is also curious to note that a BODLE

was a Scotch coin of the value of one-sixth of a penny.—*See also* CABOODLE.

**BOOK.**—To BOOK.—To engage seats; obtain tickets, etc., *i.e.*, for travelling by rail or for a public performance or meeting. Originally an Americanism, but now one of our most common colloquialisms. The engagement of seats, of course, necessitates a record or entry in a *book*, and the term *booking* came thus to mean the process referred to. It has besides given rise to other terms similar in character such as "booking office," "booking clerk," etc.—To BE BOOKED.—A thief's expression signifying to be arrested.—LIKE A BOOK.—To talk *like a book* is to talk pompously, or with a view to effect. "To know a thing *like a book*," *i.e.*, thoroughly.

**BOOK CRANKS.**—A genus with many subdivisions. The names describing some of the idiosyncrasies of those who have to do with books can fairly claim American birth. Thus a bibliopegist is a bibliophile with a special regard for bookbindings. A bibliotaph is a book miser. A bibliopole is a bookseller for bibliophiles. A biblioklept is a stealer of valuable books. Mr. Lenox, who would not let Prescott see his Mexican manuscripts, was a bibliotaph, and Sam Pepys was a biblioklept. Bibliolarty is the worship of books.

**BOOKSTORE.**—A bookseller's shop.—*See* STORE.

**BOOM.**—Variously used as a noun or a verb. Derived probably from the nautical phrase "boom-out," signifying a vessel running rapidly before the wind. Within a few years it has made its appearance



in a variety of combinations, as, "the whole State is *booming* for Smith," or "the boys have whooped up the State to *boom* for Smith," or "the Smith *boom* is ahead in this State," etc., etc. Stocks and money are said to be *booming* when active, and any particular spot within a flourishing district is regarded as within the **BOOM-BELT**. A successful team or party is said to be a **BOOMING SQUAD**, and we even read of **BOOM-LETS** to express progress of a lesser degree. The term originated in California.

The city of Paris is said to be diminishing instead of increasing in population. They don't know how to **BOOM** a town over there.—*Chicago Daily Inter-Ocean*, 1888.

'Jim, they say thar is a big bum up at Rome.'

'What's that?' said Jim.

'It's a kind of new tradin' business what swells and shrinks, and the sweller and shrinker stays down in a celler and works the machine. They trade in stock.'

'Horses and mules?' said Jim.

'No, hit's all on paper, and nobody can see what he's buyin'. You put your money in and wait for a swell. If it comes you are all right, but if a shrink comes you are busted, and you feel so ashamed that you don't say anything about it, and it never gets into the papers.'—*Missouri Republican*, Feb. 16, 1888.

By the sudden breaking of a very large boom of logs in Palouse River, near Colfax, Washington Territory, yesterday, Moses Ebert was killed, an unknown man was drowned, and three other men seriously injured.—*New York Evening Post*, Feb. 24, 1888.

After the Sheridan reception of course John Sherman must come to Boston. The Ohio statesman knows where all the real live booms start. If Mr. Blaine is wise he also will come to the 'Hub' without delay.—*Boston Daily Globe*, 1888.

A boom in North Carolina is not the kind of phenomenon to which we are accustomed here. Sales of land at from 2 dols. to 10 dols. an acre in a boom-belt are not of record hereabout.—*Picayune*, 1888.

Ben Butterworth, of Ohio, one of the mainstays of John Sherman's **BOOMING SQUAD**, has just had the title of boss Repub-

lican tariff debater conferred upon him by the culture of Boston.—*Chicago Herald*, 1888.

**BOOMA** (*Sciurus hudsonius*).—This is a North Carolina term for the little red squirrel, which, in the Northern States, is popularly known as the **CHICKAREE** (*q.v.*). *Booma* is the Indian name.

**BOONDER**.—A Dutch term for a brush. Still commonly used in New York and New Jersey.

**BOOST, To**.—To hoist or raise by pushing from below or behind. An Old English word.

**BOOT, To**.—To kick; derivation obvious.

**BOOTEE**.—A shoe of the blucher pattern.

**BOOT-LICK**.—A flunkey; hanger-on; or doer of dirty work.

**BOOTS**.—At the College of South Carolina it is customary to present the most unpopular member of a class with a pair of handsome red-topped boots, on which is inscribed the word *beauty*. They were formerly given to the ugliest person, whence the inscription.

**BORDER RUFFIANS**.—This came prominently into use during the Kansas-Nebraska troubles of 1854-5, and was originally applied to bands of voters who crossed the border from the slave States in order to carry the elections in the territories.—*See BLEEDING KANSAS*.

**BORNING GROUND**.—The country of one's birth; the ground upon which one was born; one's native soil.

**BOS.**—At the University of Virginia, the dessert which the students, according to the statutes of the college, are allowed twice per week, are respectively called the senior and junior *bos*.

**BOSAAL.**—A halter of particular construction, used in the breaking-in of horses. From the Spanish *bozal*, a muzzle.

**BOSHING** (Cant).—A flogging.

**BOSS.**—The political *boss* is the leader whose word is law to his henchmen. *Boss Tweed*, of New York, is believed to have been the first to wear the title in a semi-official way. The phrase *BOSS RULE* is said to have been invented by Mr. Wayne MacVeagh, and was employed by him in political speeches in Chicago. It is now in common use in this sense. Originally the word (Dutch *baas*) was used in New York and vicinity in a semi-respectful way. Now in common use on both sides of the Atlantic—as a noun, a master; adjective, pleasant; and as a verb, to lead, to domineer.

Alderman Campbell—I move an amendment to make Hamline the general superintendent and chief boss of this whole gas business.

'Didn't I rent you the land for a third of the crop?' 'Yes, boss,' said the man; 'but you see dere was no third. Dere was only two bales of cotton and two loads of corn; all mine, and nuffin' for you by the contract.' And the landlord could not make Cuffee believe any other way.—*American Humorist*, 1888.

Take it all together, with scarcity of food and little sleep, we had a hard but a boss time.—*Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, March 18, 1888.

When lovely woman hires a servant  
And bosses her around all day,  
What makes the girl pray half so fervent  
As her desire to run away.  
—*Texas Siftings*, July, 1888.

The organization of the Republican State Executive Committee the other evening de-

veloped about the highest handed bit of bossism that has come to the surface for years.—*Cincinnati Enquirer*, 1888.

**BOSTON.**—A card game of American origin and dating from the War of Independence. In *The Laws of the Eastern States* occurs the following note. A game of cards was invented in Versaul and called in honor of the town *Boston*; the points of the game are allusive—"Great Independence," "Little Independence," "Great Misery," "Little Misery," etc. It was composed partly of whist and partly of another game partaking most of the former. A correspondent of the *Magazine of American History*, writing in 1879, reported that it was then hardly known in the States, but that it might be useful to card players to know that it was a most interesting game. At that time it was frequently played in France, and was almost the exclusive game in every "circle" in the North of Europe from Amsterdam to St. Petersburg. It has been suggested that this game was invented by Dr. Franklin, and there is a tradition that he was fond of playing it. The *BOSTON CLUB* of New Orleans, one of the oldest social clubs in that city, was named after it, and it is curious to note that there are islands in Boston Harbour about Salem, and other places perhaps, bearing the name of Independence, Great Misery and Little Misery. In this game *Boston* means "to get five tricks."

**BOSTONESE.**—Used in the same manner as telegraphese, *i.e.*, in a manner peculiar to the *Daily Telegraph*. *Bostonese*, therefore, is a method of speech or manners supposed to be specially affected by the residents of that city.

The lady was in jolly good spirits, and she bore the honors of her position with her

customary tact and *savoir faire*. There were a number of people present, principally BOSTONESE, and they treated the bright little visitor with great respect and attention.—*New York Herald*, July 29, 1888.

**BOSTON NOTIONS.**—This is a well-known expression and dates back many years. It was used during the last century, and even at that time had become proverbial. In the preface to an oration on the "Beauties of Liberty," delivered at Boston, December 3, 1773, by "a British Bostonian" (Mr. Allen), it says that "the Bostonians are very *notional*." Again in the *Massachusetts Mercury*, May 3, 1793, is an article headed "Boston folks are full of *notions*," which speaks of the fact as a proverbial saying.

**BOTHERSOME.**—Annoying; vexatious.

**BOTTOM.**—Power of endurance; stamina. English slang which is thoroughly and respectably colloquial in the States.

A buffalo can run only about two-thirds as fast as a good horse; but what he lacks in speed, he makes up in *bottom* or endurance, in tenacity of purpose, and in most extraordinary vitality.—*Dodge's Plains of the Great West*.

—To KNOCK THE BOTTOM OUT OF ONE, is to overcome; to defeat, etc.

The declination of Mr. Blaine has knocked the *bottom* out of Mugwumpery.—*Cleveland Leader*, 1888.

—BOTTOM DOLLAR.—The last dollar. The phrase "to bet one's *bottom dollar*" is frequently heard.

—BOTTOM FACTS.—The exact truth about any matter. To "get to the *bottom facts*" concerning a subject is to arrive at an unquestionable conclusion concerning it, or, as we should say in England, to get to the root of the question.

You take a family able to emba'm, and you've got a soft thing. You can mention

sixteen different ways to do it—though there aint only one or two ways when you come down to the *BOTTOM FACTS* of it—and they'll take the highest priced way every time. It's human nature—human nature in grief.—*Mark Twain's Life on the Mississippi*, p. 393.

—The phrase is also varied by  
**BOTTOM ROCK.**

**BOTTOM ROCK.**

Conductor (on California train some years hence)—"All out for Pitholeville."

Real Estate Agent (entering car)—"Orange groves and apple orchards, two for a penny."—*Omaha World*, 1888.

**BOTTOM LANDS OR BOTTOM.**—Flat land in the valleys.

Dave Kensett, an industrious old negro who lives down in the *BOTTOMS*, is greatly annoyed by the members of the church.—*American Humorist*, 1888.

The bluffs of the Mississippi only follow the general course of the stream, and as one goes to the southward they get farther away from the stream, till the *BOTTOM LANDS* are from thirty to sixty miles wide, and below Baton Rouge, as aforesaid, the whole country is *BOTTOM*. Above St. Louis these wide lowlands are rare; but the noted American *BOTTOM* is several miles wide opposite Hannibal, Mo., and extends the length of two or three counties on the Illinois side. This tract contains some 200 square miles of the most fertile land in the world.—*American Humorist*, 1888.

**BOUGE, To.**—From the old French *bouge*, a swelling. To be puffed out; to bulge; or swell out. An old provincialism now rarely heard in England, but still current in the remote parts of New England.

**BOUGHTEN.**—Past participle of "to buy," in which the archaic termination is still preserved; like gotten, putten, etc. Used adjectively, it serves to distinguish shop bought goods from home manufactures (New England and New York). The distinction will be readily understood in connection with baker's bread as compared with what is known as home-made bread. *Boughten* is yet a provincialism



in use in the North of England as regards the former.

**BOUNCE, To.**—To expel by force; to eject with violence.

To-day Mayor Armstrong, with the chief of police and sixty regular and special policemen, went to Arsenal Hill, the scene of the land-jumping, and ordered all the trespassers off, warning them that the land was claimed by the city. The jumpers did not go, whereupon the Mayor ordered his force to bounce them and tear down their shanties, tents and fences, which was promptly done, and a guard left to prevent the jumpers' return.—*Cincinnati Weekly Gazette*, February 22, 1888.

—Also to swagger; hence a **BOUNCER** is a thief who commits his depredations with bravado and bullying. The term is also used to signify one who ejects, in English slang a "chucker out."

He settled in New Orleans, and was first employed as **BOUNCER** in a ball-room and café of old creole days.—*American Humorist*, 1888.

—To **GET THE GRAND BOUNCE** is equivalent, in political parlance, to dismissal, especially in reference to government appointments.

**BOUNCING CHEAT (Cant).**—A bottle.

**BOUNG (Cant).**—A purse.

**BOUNTY-JUMPER.**—The War of the Rebellion is responsible for this, as for many other colloquialisms. As the conflict lengthened out, men became in great request, and large bounties were offered by the North for volunteers. This bounty was found in many cases to be a direct incitement with unprincipled men to bad faith and unfair dealing. Such would enlist, receive their bounty, join their regiment, and then decamp, to reappear in another State to go through the same performance. Cases were known where this was done many times

over, and the practice was called *bounty-jumping*.—See **JUMPING**.

**BOURBON.**—(1) A Democrat of the strictest sect; a **FIRE-EATER** (*q.v.*). Applied for the most part to Southern Democrats of the old school. This use of the word probably ante-dates the Civil War, but no instance of such use has been found in print. Bourbon County, Kentucky, is popularly associated with this kind of Democrat, but we must look to the old Bourbon party in France—uncompromising adherents of political tradition—for its true paternity. —(2) A superior kind of whiskey originally applied to that manufactured in Bourbon, Kentucky.

**BOWDARK OR BODOK** (*q.v.*).—Also *bois d'arc*.

**BOWEL.**—At Harvard, "To have no *bowels*" is to be poor, destitute, or without means. Of scriptural derivation, the word being used in a somewhat similar sense in the Bible.

**BOWER (RIGHT AND LEFT).**—Terms at euchre, designating the two highest cards in the pack, the *right bower* being the knave of the suit turned up as trumps, and the *left bower* the corresponding card in the suit of the same colour, *i.e.*, clubs if spades are trumps, or hearts if diamonds, and, of course, *vice versa*. Some philologists, especially those who favor the theory that all card games, in the first instance, were full of political allusions and import, regard euchre as a case in point, and derive *bower* from the German *bauer*, a peasant or yeoman, who thus appropriates kingly place and power. This may be so, but the idea is somewhat fanciful, especially as, if it

be true at all that the game is of German origin, the Teutons of the period of its birth were certainly little enough affected with Democratic ideas, and it would rather seem that our American cousins in their loyalty to the Republican sentiment have, in seeking a derivation for the terms used in one of their favorite games, allowed the wish to become father of the thought. Idiomatically, *bower* is now used in the slang sense of "excellent," "foremost," etc. For example, a man might describe a good and true wife as his *right bower*; or, as in one of the following quotations, the colloquial sense may be even more extended.

Sandy Tipton . . . rose for a moment superior to the fact that he had an ace and two *BOWERS* in his sleeve.—*Bret Harte's Luck of Roaring Camp*, p. 76.

'What have you got there? I call,' said T. quietly.

'Two *BOWERS* and an ace' said the stranger, showing two revolvers and a bowie knife.—*Bret Harte's Tennessee's Partner*, p. 210.

—(Cant).—A prison.

**BOW'RY BOYS AND GIRLS.** — The 'Arry's and 'Arriet's of the New York of some years ago. The bowery is a well-known thoroughfare in the American metropolis where such congregate. Formerly spelt *bouwerij* and derived from *bouw*, tillage, or *bouwen*, to till, to cultivate, and is equivalent to the modern Dutch word *boerderij*, a farm, or the business of farming. The bowery was the farm of Governor Stuyvesant.

**BOWIE OR BOWIE-KNIFE.**—A long, formidable weapon, sometimes over a foot in length and two inches broad, only worn by hunters and desperadoes in the wilder and more unsettled parts of the Union. One kind is facetiously called an

ARKANSAS TOOTHPICK (*q.v.*). The term *bowie* was derived from a notorious character, Colonel Jim Bowie.

A stalwart ruffian . . . who carried two revolvers in his belt, and a BOWIE-KNIFE projecting from his boot.—*Mark Twain's Roughing it*, chap. 31.

—Also TO BOWIE-KNIFE, *i.e.*, to stab with that weapon.

. . . The same Mr. Softroe who would meet you at the liquor bar of a Mississippi steamer, inveigle you to play Poker, cheat you, ay, and quickly BOWIE-KNIFE you if you discovered that it was through cheating that you had lost your dollars.

**BOWMAN.**—An antiquated Virginian term among army men for a body-servant. The name itself dates back to a period prior to the introduction of powder and shot—perhaps one of the oldest relics of pre-colony days now extant in the New World.

**BOWMAN'S BOOT** (*Gillenia trifoliata*).—A medicinal plant with emetic qualities, perhaps more generally known as INDIAN PHYSIC. It is a species of *ipecacuanha*.

**BOWSPRIT** (Cant).—The nose; clearly of nautical origin.—To HAVE ONE'S BOWSPRIT IN PARENTHESIS is to have it pulled. "To have one's head in Coventry" will occur to mind as an English slang phrase very similar in character.

**Box.**—(1) Also known as a BATTERY (*q.v.*) A kind of flat boat used in duck shooting.—(2) A technical term, signifying, in North Carolina, a large bowl-like incision made in gum-bearing or resinous trees for the purpose of collecting the exuding sap. This operation is known as "boxing a tree," hence to box in this sense.

**BOX CAR.**—A HOUSE-CAR so called; a close car used to convey furniture and merchandize by rail.

When your legs fail you at last, you lie down on a small BOX CAR . . . and are dragged up to daylight.—*Mark Twain's Innocents at Home*, chap. vii.

**BOX ELDER** (*Negundium americanum*).  
—Also known as the ASH-LEAVED MAPLE.

Bob McCord had stopped in the darkness under the shade of a BOX ELDER, a little beyond the forks of the road.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1888.

**BOX TURTLE.**—A tortoise which, when alarmed, has the power of rolling itself up, appearing as if enclosed in a box. The under shell of this turtle is arranged in two or three sections (according to species), each being joined by a ligament-like skin.

**BOY.**—(1) The general usage, as regards this and several other terms of a similar character, constitutes a distinct peculiarity amongst American authors and journalists. The offspring of Smith, Jones, or Robinson appear in print as the Smith *boy*, the Jones girl, etc., and if thought desirable to state age the description would run, the fifteen-year-old Robinson *boy*. The custom is almost indefinitely extended in other directions. Thus we hear of the widow Whangdoodle, Architect Gribble, Butcher Thompson, etc. The practice is to describe men by their trade and profession in a manner which, in England, is now confined to doctors (Doctor Smith) and occasionally, amongst the illiterate, to lawyers (Lawyer Jones) and parsons (Parson Robinson).

The city schools lack fourteen weeks of being out, and the Skipper boy could com-

ply with the law, with two weeks to spare. The defence set up this plea. The Court held decision until 10 o'clock to-day, at which time the prosecution took a non-suit. If the Skipper boy is not in school by that time the prosecution can make a valid case.—*Chicago Daily News*, 1888.

—(2) A Southern term before the war for a colored servant, even when grey haired and infirm.—

(3) This word is also often used nowadays to designate the political hangers-on of a candidate or party; those who can be counted upon to cheer and be on hand, in season and out of season, and who expect the small change of the campaign funds in the way of free drinks, and the minor offices as their remuneration. **HEELERS** (*q.v.*) has much the same meaning, but is rather derogatory by implication. It is safe to call a boy a *boy*, but to call him a "heeler" might involve unpleasantness. **B'HOY** (*q.v.*) is a somewhat obsolete corruption of *boy*, and has a rowdyish rather than a political signification.

—**BOYS IN BLUE.**—The soldiers of the North, from their blue uniforms; also called **YANKS** and **BLUE-BELLIES**. Since the war the term *boys in blue* has become the official title of sundry half-military organizations, in many of which negroes predominate. Blue, it may be mentioned, was the color of the uniform worn by the Independent Company of Pennsylvania, in the War of Independence.

(The Irish-American soldier) had the bright humorous countenance of the Celt with the peculiar liteness and military swagger of the American **BOYS IN BLUE.**—*Justin McCarthy*.

**BRACE, TO** (Cant).—To get credit by swagger.—**TO BRACE IT THROUGH.**—To succeed by dint of sheer impudence.—**TO BRACE UP**, which in English slang signifies to pledge stolen goods, is equivalent in America to taking a drink.



'This is pretty tough on me,' sighed Colonel Snort. 'I don't want to go back on my party, and, at the same time, I don't want to advocate taxing the necessities of life. Let's go over to the salon and BRACE UP with a snifter, and maybe I'll see my way out of this nauseating dilemma.'—*Texas Siftings*, August 18, 1888.

**BRADISHED.**—Hermetically sealed.

After the settling the west entrance was not safe to work in, but timbers were put in and it was BRADISHED, or hermetically sealed. It is dangerous to seal up a portion of a mine, for gas collects in it and may force its way out.—*Missouri Republican*, March 31, 1888.

**BRAINY.**—(1) A strange word curiously derived from its legitimate noun root. A *brainy* journal is not, as might be supposed, *par excellence*, a paper characterized by deep thought or research. Thought of a kind, it is true, is implied in the term *brainy*, but it is rather in the direction of the "imaginative and airy nothings" species of society gossip now so rife in many journals.

I see that the go-aways are packing their trunks and getting their names into print already. I am myself booked for a trip to Europe among the BRAINY paragraphs thrown off by one society reporter.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, April 29, 1888.

—(2) Also mental restlessness.

We are a BRAINY people. BRAINY men succeed in life. An active intellect with a weak organism to work through will wear it out early in life. Hence, in our country, the large number of those who break down.—*Missouri Republican*, Feb. 12, 1888.

—(3) *Brainy*, in a more legitimate sense, indicates the possession of brain-power; in each case, however, the usage is distinctively American.

By May 1 at least 1,500 men will be under the contract restrictions of professional clubs, all under the protection of the national agreement and subject to the ruling of a BRAINY board of arbitration.—*Chicago Herald*, 1888.

**BRANCH.**—The fluvial phraseology of America has preserved in many cases the terms once current in the old country. *Branch* is one of these words, and is colloquial in the South in the sense in which it was used by Sir Walter Raleigh. Its primary meaning is a brook; other names for running water are RIVER and BAYOU.

As they were going directly away from Globe City, Hop Sing did not hold back, but followed the child to the fringe of timber that bordered a small creek or BRANCH.

**BRAND.**—A mark of proprietorship placed upon cattle, in the West especially, where immense herds often travel from place to place over a large tract of country in search of food and water, or for shelter. In consequence, the different herds frequently get mixed either by accident or design—hence the stress placed by ranchmen upon *brands* and branding. Indeed, so customary is it for a cowboy to inspect and note the *brands* of every group of cattle he meets with, that it becomes quite a second nature to do so. Very stringent precautions are taken by cattle-men to prevent any tampering with *brands*. An attempt of this kind is most severely punished; but, as a matter of fact, the chances of malpractice are few and far between; and, in addition to the deterrent influence of punishment if discovered, all *brands* are registered, and BRAND-READERS are appointed as inspectors. All cattle-marks are jealously examined on the living and the dead animals at every shipping point, and Roosevelt, a well-known authority, declares it is wonderful to see how quickly these men will detect signs of a *brand* having been tampered with. Now there is, in consequence,

very little of this kind of dishonesty; whereas formerly herds were occasionally stolen almost bodily. The law once was (and may yet be) that all cattle which were allowed to pass the age of one year unbranded became the property of him whose *brand* was first put upon them. One Maverick formerly owned such immense herds that many of his animals unavoidably escaped his rouanne in the spring, were taken up by his neighbors, branded and called *Mavericks*. The term eventually spread over the whole cattle country, and is in use now not only to denote a beast thus acquired, but any young unbranded animal. No great drove can sweep through the mighty, unfenced ranch lands of the great West without drawing a wake of these *Mavericks*—these *boves per dolum amtas*—and the temptation to let them remain has ruined the herdsman's character. The *brands* and their descriptive names would fill all the books of the Nuremberg Cobbler. Indeed the West is one great tangle of bovine hieroglyphics which the cowboys read better than a book. *Brands* are placed usually on the hip, shoulder and side, or on any one of them, and comprise letters, numbers, or figures, in every combination, the outfit being known by its *brand*. Some now actually in use are the Three Sevens, the Thistle, the Bellows, the OX, the VI., the Seventy-six Bar ( $\overline{76}$ ), and the Quarter Circle Diamond ( $\diamond$ ). The dew-lap and the ears may also be cut, notched, or slit, or they may be marked with the vent, a *brand* announcing sale; single-bob, a slit ear dropping down. Other marks signifying ownership are over-bit, over-hack, over-half-crop, over-slope, swallow-fork, under-bit, under-hack, etc. —

**BRAND-BOOK.**—A register of the multitudinous marks used in branding.  
**—BRAND-BUNCH.**—A small herd of cattle.

**BRANDT GOOSE.**—Dodge, in his *Plains of the Great West*, says a very considerable number of birds come to the plains in the early spring, rear broods, and return in the fall to a more congenial climate. Of these the *brandt goose* is the largest. Along streams secure from freshets and prowling animals the *brandt* makes a nest of small sticks, grass, leaves, and feathers on some secluded point only a few inches above the water. On streams liable to spring rises and otherwise unprotected, she builds a huge structure of sticks, some of them apparently too large for her to carry, in some convenient fork of a tree twenty, thirty, or even more feet above the ground, and not unfrequently a hundred feet from the water. This outwardly rough affair is nicely lined with leaves, grass and feathers, making a superb bed for the eggs. . . . The eggs are not quite so large as those of the DOMESTIC GOOSE, but when fresh are more delicate and of a richer flavor.

**BRANDY SMASH.**—A well-known "American drink," of which brandy is the chief component, crushed ice being another important addition.

We procured the services of a gentleman experienced in the nomenclature of the American bar. . . . A bowing, aproned Frenchman stepped forward and said 'Que voulez les messieurs?' Our general said (after naming several other drinks) 'Give us a BRANDY SMASH.' The Frenchman began to back away suspicious of the ominous vigor of the last order.—Mark Twain's *Innocents Abroad*.

**Philological.**—Gallic Tourist—'I do not see how any one ever learns the absurd English. I read on the menu of drinks

"Sherree Cobblair," I find in the dictionary—a mender of shoes of sherry wine; "Santa Cruz Sour," *La Sainte Croix acide*; BRANDY SMASH, *Eau de vie écrasé*. *Bête de langue!*—*New York Evening Post*, February 24, 1888.

**BRASH.**—Several meanings attach to this word, most of which, if not all, can be traced back to Old English usage. *Brash* is still provincial in some parts of England for broken boughs and twigs, such as are seen scattered about after a storm, hence (1) brittle, a meaning which in New England is employed when speaking of frangible timber or ice, *e.g.*, BRASH ICE, *i.e.*, ice which has become brittle and pulverized. In New York it is applied to vegetables when fresh.—(2) Harsh. This also is an old friend with new surroundings, it once having been general to describe hastiness of temper and impetuosity.

'You foolish boy,' said Barbara. 'You've gone at your work too BRASH. You ought to be ashamed of yourself. Here, take some of this pie; and don't you work so hard the rest of the day.'—*Scribner's Magazine*.

—(3) Used adjectively of a person when indisposed, a meaning which is still colloquial in the North of England.

**BRASS MONKEY.**—COLD ENOUGH TO FREEZE THE NOSE OFF A BRASS MONKEY is a simile for intense cold amongst some people.

**BRAVE.**—A romantic term for an Indian warrior. Once common, but, like the "noble savage" himself, fast disappearing, and only to be found in this sense in the works of writers of the Fenimore Cooper stamp. Now used colloquially for "a man."

**BRAVELY**, for well; excellently; finely. This, with its adjective *brave*, is nearly obsolete in England, but

still current in the United States in the sense given.

**BREACHY.**—Unruly; mainly applied to cattle. New England. Used in the same sense in our own Southern counties.

**BREAD KIND** (West Indian).—Substitutes for bread, as, for example, the fruit of the plantain and edible roots.—*See* BREAD STUFF.

**BREAD-ROOT** (*Psoralea esculenta*).—This edible, farinaceous root found in the Rocky Mountain region, where it grows profusely, is in form like the beet but larger in size, oftentimes attaining a circumference of twenty inches or more. Its white pulp is sweet, very palatable, and highly nutritious. Its popular name is by no means ill-deserved.

**BREADSTUFF.**—Wheat, flour, grain and all products usually made into bread. One of the most useful words in the language for which we have to thank our American cousins; its introduction goes back over a hundred years.

**BREAK.**—TO MAKE A BREAK, that is, to make a rush for, a meaning which is probably a mere modification of the same word in billiard phraseology.

A grizzly, you know, will stay by the dogs and fight them, whenever they come in reach, till he can get a sniff of a man. They can smell a man a long way off, and as soon as they can do this they make a BREAK for him.

**BREAK BACK.**—Technically applied to a roof, the angle of departure of which on one side varies from that of the other, the roof itself also being carried down much lower.



**BREKKBONE FEVER.**—A fever peculiar to low-lying, swampy localities. This malady is intermittent, and is accompanied by very violent pains in all the bones and joints. Also called DENGUE, in the South.

The broad, red sun was just dipping into the prairie horizon, when a grey haze overspread the landscape, creeping up from the sluggish stream. The old man waved his hand towards it, with the brief, but expressive phrase, BREAKBONE FEVER, and we retired to the cabin and evening fire.—*J. H. Beadle's Western Wilds.*

**BREAKISH.**—A colloquialism for frail, brittle, etc. Also BREAKY.

**BREAK-O'DAY DRUM** (Cant).—A drinking saloon which keeps its doors open all night.

**BREAKUP.**—A slang term for places where large numbers of people separate, as *e.g.*, a railway station or pier.—To BREAK-UP.—(1) In England to break new land is common enough; in America the same operation is spoken of as *breaking up*, De Vere says, because of the much greater difficulty attending the process.—(2) To confuse; in theatrical parlance "to bring down the house."

One of those indefatigable New York letter-writers has been poking in the ruins of the Union Square Theatre. He was interrupted in his explorations one morning by an old actor who remarked: That house had a glorious history. Think how many reputations were chiefly made within its walls. . . . There Owen Fawcett and Thorne were always guying and in the 'Two Orphans' when the Chevalier threatened to throw Picard out of the window, the latter interjected the question: What's the matter with the door? and BROKE UP Thorne and the audience.—*Detroit Free Press*, August 4, 1888.

**BREAKY.**—See BREAKISH.

**BREAM** (*Pomotis vulgaris*).—A fresh water fish of showy colors, which

bears several names; being known also as the SUN-FISH, and the PUMPKIN-SEED.

**BREATH.**—CHANGE YOUR BREATH; *i.e.*, an injunction to adopt a different manner or bearing. An offensive, slang expression which, originating in California, quickly ran its course through the Union.

**BREEZY.**—Noisy and boisterous when used of persons; probably a sea term. Compare with "three sheets in the wind" *i.e.*, drunk.

**BRETSELN.**—German twisted bread is thus known.

**BREVET HELL.**—A nickname for a battle, which originated during the Civil War. The meaning is obvious enough. The carnage and bloodshed of a battle-field is only a degree short of the horrors of the theological "hell." Compare with BREVET-WIFE, BREVET-RANK.

**BREWIS.**—A mess composed of crusts of rye and Indian bread steeped in milk, and eaten with molasses. New England. The same word in the North of England is used for a mixture of fat broth and bread.

**BRICK IN THE HAT.**—A drunken man is said to have a *brick in his hat*, the allusion being to top-heaviness and inability to preserve a steady gait.

**BRICKLY.**—Brittle; frail.—See also BREAKY and BREAKISH. A Georgian term from the Dutch *brickle*.

**BRICK MILL.**—At the University of Vermont, the students speak of the College as the *brick mill* or the *old brick mill*.

**BRIEF.**—Common; prevalent; rife. Thought to be a corruption of the last-named. This peculiarity is rife, or as they would put it *brief*, in the Southern States, and is also provincial in England in the same sense. "Disease is *brief*" (prevalent). "Cold winds have lately been very *brief*" (common).

**BRIGHT.**—Often used for zealous; taking great interest in.

Robert Morris was initiated into the craft on March 5, 1846. He became at once what is known as a **BRIGHT** mason, and his progress in the order was steady until his election as grand master of Kentucky in 1888.—*American Humorist*, September 15, 1888.

**BRITISHER.**—Bartlett disclaims this form as an Americanism, and says he never heard an American call an Englishman a *Britisher*. Proctor rather strongly traverses this statement and relates that he had not been in America ten days before he heard many Americans speak of Englishmen as *Britishers* and generally as "blarsted *Britishers*." De Vere is silent on the matter, but Mr. Proctor's contention is supported by the *New York Herald* of July 29, 1888, in which headlines appeared. "*Britishers* jubilant.—Racing at Goodwood and Sandown interests fashion." *Britisher* was probably introduced by Macaulay; it has not, however, yet received orthodox baptism.

**BROADBILL** (*Fulix [Anas] marila*).—A coast wild fowl, frequenting the Eastern shores in the fall of the year. Like many other birds this wild duck is known by different names elsewhere—as the **RAFT-DUCK** in Virginia, while at Chesapeake Bay it is termed a **BLACK-HEAD**.

**BROADHORN.**—A flat river boat of very old fashioned rig. Now fallen into disuse.—*See* **FLAT-BOAT**.

Well, daddy was a little unsettled; but he went off at last, and that was the how of my fresh trip. He went off on a **BROADHORN**.—*J. H. Beadle's Western Wilds*, p. 27.

**BROADY** (Cant).—In English cant *broady*, a corruption of "broad-cloth," is applied to cloth, but among American thieves it is the name given to material of any kind worth stealing.

**BROKERESS.**—The admission of women to trades and professions, formerly exclusively occupied by men, has given rise to many new terms describing the changed conditions. Most, if not all, of these words first saw the light across the water, America having been foremost in the so-called women's rights agitation. *Brokeress* is a term coming within this category, and is applied to a woman acting as a broker or dealer in stocks, shares, and such-like securities, London at length (July, 1888) can boast a *brokeress*; but while doctresses are as plentiful as blackberries in the States, the whole of England, the metropolis included, can only schedule about thirty fair *Æsculapians*.

**BRONCHO** (Pronounce "ch" as in church).—The native horse of California, a somewhat tricky and uncertain quadruped. The term is familiarly applied to horses that buck and show other signs of vice. Of gentle deportment and modest mien, there is really not a safe place about him. There is nothing mean about the *broncho*, though; he is perfectly reasonable and acts on principle. All he asks is to be let alone, but

he does ask this and even insists on it. He is firm in this matter, and no kind of argument can shake his determination. A newspaper correspondent relates that one day a man roped a *broncho* and tried to put a saddle on him. The beast looked sadly, shook his head, and begged the fellow as plain as could be to go away and not try to interfere with a *broncho* who was simply engaged in the pursuit of his own happiness; but the man came on with the saddle and continued to "egress." Then the *broncho* reached out with his hind foot and expostulated with him so that he died. When thoroughly aroused the *broncho* is quite fatal, and if you can get close enough to him to examine his cranial structure you will find a cavity just above the eye where the bump of remorse should be. The *broncho* is what the cowboys call "high strung." If you want to know just how high he is strung, climb up on his apex. The Spanish signification of the word is rough and crabbed little beast, and in truth he deserves this name. — **BRONCHO-BUSTER.** — A breaker-in of *bronchos*; also called a **FLASH-RIDER.** These men make a profession of their business, and perform really marvellous feats, riding with ease the most vicious and unbroken beasts that no ordinary rider would dare tackle. A favorite feat is to sit out the antics of a bucking-horse with silver half-dollars under each knee or in the stirrups under each foot. Their method of breaking-in may be described as the exercise of main force, it being a tussle as to which can hold out the longest, man or *broncho*. The calling is a dangerous one and a first-class *broncho-buster* can always command high wages and constant employment on large ranches.

A good rider is a good rider all the world over; but an Eastern or English horse-breaker and Western **BRONCHO-BUSTER** have so little in common with each other as regards style or surroundings, and are so totally out of place in doing each other's work, that it is almost impossible to get either to admit that the other has any merits at all as a horseman, for neither could sit in the saddle of the other, or could, without great difficulty, perform his task.—*Century Magazine*, 1887.

**BRONZE JOHN.**—A Texas name for yellow fever.

**BROOKLYN.**—It may be a matter of interest to know that the name of this favorite suburb of New York, and itself a city of no mean dimensions, is derived from the village of Breuckelen, near Amsterdam, in Holland. The Dutch colonists were very fond of calling their new homes after the old familiar names, and we thus find traces of their enterprise and colonizing instincts all over the globe. Some examples are very curious and are sometimes fantastic. This is especially the case in the West Indies, particularly Demerara, as seen in the appellation of not a few of the old plantations, *e.g.*, *Goedverwagting* or "Good expectation of hope"; *Haagsbosch*, after the park at the Hague; *Huis-t-Dieren*, a famous country-seat near Amsterdam; and *Noigtgedacht*, "Never thought." Whether the old Dutch planter who bestowed this name upon his patrimony, "never thought" it would turn out such a gold mine, or conversely productive of so much anxiety, can, at this time of day, hardly be decided, but in another case of *Zorg*, "Care" or "Anxiety," tradition says that its owner fully realized the uncertainty attending sugar cultivation. This, however, does not seem to have prevented him acquiring fresh land, upon which he named his new plantation *Meerzorg*, "More care." After this



it must be supposed that things went fairly well with him, for we find he added yet more to his possessions, in *Met-en-meerzorg*, "With more and more care," probably an allusion to the increased carefulness with which it would be necessary to manage such large interests.  
—See DUTCH NAMES.

**BROOM-CORN** (*Torgnum saccharatum*).—A variety of maize, the dried heads of which are largely used for brooms in the United States.

**BROOM-SAGE**.—A tall, stiff-jointed grass, common on the abandoned fields of Virginia and North Carolina.

**BROTHER JONATHAN**.—This is the cognomen of a citizen of the United States of America, in the same manner as John Bull is the designation of an Englishman. Derived from Jonathan Turnbull, a governor of Connecticut, to whom General Washington applied so often for advice and assistance that his name ultimately passed into a byword.

**BROTUS** ("o" pronounced as in fraught).—The thirteenth loaf in a baker's dozen; the heaping up of a measure; what is thrown in to make sure of good weight. Used in Charleston, South Carolina, and exactly equivalent to the Gumbo-French word *LAGNIAPPE* (*q.v.*) of New Orleans.

**BROUGHTENS UP**.—A humorous corruption for BRINGING UP; education.

**BROWN, TO**.—A variant of "to do brown," *i.e.*, to do to perfection, or in slang, to get the better of. Not common; for though of transatlantic origin, it is now far more

colloquial in England than in America. The simile is obviously taken from the browning process which meat undergoes during roasting. *To brown* in the sense of to understand, is also occasionally heard.

**BROWN BREAD**.—Unlike English brown or bran-bread, the component parts of the American comestible of this name are two-thirds maize meal and one-third rye meal; formerly confined to New England and now, in consequence, known in other parts of the Union as BOSTON-BREAD.

**BROWN STONE** (Cant).—(1) Beer.  
—(2) A dark variety of red sandstone, which, in spite of its inability to long withstand climatic influences, is very fashionable for building purposes in New York and other large centres.

**BROWN THRASHER OR BROWN THRUSH** (*Harporhynchus longicauda* or *Turdus rufus*).—"Thrasher" is probably a mere corruption of "thrush." Another popular name is the GROUND OR MOUNTAIN MOCKING BIRD, while farther South in Maryland it receives the name of the FRENCH MOCKING BIRD. It is one of the best known American song birds.

**BRUISERS**.—A generic name in large cities for a rowdy or bully. Sometimes, however, the term has been limited in its application to a particular band of ruffians. This was the case once in Baltimore.

**BRUNG**.—A vulgar form of the past participle of to bring—brought.

**BRUSH**.—(1) A well-known Californian plowing implement. As

soon as the crop is harvested, the teams are hitched to a *brush*—six horses to a twenty foot *brush*—which goes over the field at the rate of forty acres per day. This *brush* scatters the grain which has been dropped in the fields; and sometimes a little more seed is added. When it has been *brushed* it is ploughed—two or three inches deep—to cover the seed; and from this comes, what is called a “volunteer crop,” which is often better than the first, and is certainly counted on. In the heavier soil the “volunteer crop” is put in with the harrow instead of the *brush*.—(2) A contraction of “brushwood” comprising not only low bushes and underwood, but branches of trees.

However, two saplings, duly cut and trimmed, compelled recognition of the fact that a still modester architecture would satisfy the law, and so we concluded to build a *BRUSH* house. We devoted the next day to this work, but we did so much sitting-around and discussing, that by the middle of the afternoon we had achieved only a half-way sort of affair, which one of us had to watch while the other cut bush, lest if both turned our backs we might not be able to find it again, it had such a strong family resemblance to the surrounding vegetation. But we were satisfied with it.—*Mark Twain's Roughing it*.

—To *BRUSH* (Cant).—To humbug by flattery.—*BRUSHING UP A FLAT*.—Using mealy-mouthed words, or, to employ another slang equivalent, “laying it on thick.”—To *BE BRUSHED*.—To be covered with *BRUSH* (2) (*q.v.*).

While crossing the pocket of a canon, liberally wooded or *BRUSHED* with wild plums and rose-bushes, a couple of white-tailed deer jumped up just beyond the clump, from forty to fifty yards away, and remained in full view.—*Century Magazine*.

—*BRUSER* (Cant) — A full glass.

**B.T.I.**—An abbreviation of A BIG THING ON ICE (*q.v.*). These cur-

tailments of slang phrases are not infrequent in America, and among others may be mentioned P.D.Q.; O.K.; N.G. and Q.K., etc.

**BUBB, To** (Cant).—To drink.

**BUBBER**.—A nickname for an old woman with large pendulous breasts. Rarely heard.

**BUBBLER**.—A popular name for an Ohio river-fish, and derived from the peculiar bubbling noise made by it when caught.

**BUBBY**.—A pet name for a baby. Compare with *BABSY*.

When she was ready to go home, she did so without carriage or baby. Shortly after *BUBBY* kicked up high jinks, and the joker clerk was sent for to take him away.—*San Francisco Weekly Examiner*, 1888.

**BUCCANEER**.—A long musket. A term, now obsolete, once applied to this weapon by the early settlers in the New World.

**Bucco** (Cant).—A dandy. A corruption of “buck.”

**Buck**.—(1) A frame into which a saw is fixed for sawing wood. Also called in New England *SAW-HORSE* and *SAW-BUCK*. The operation of cutting-up wood with this instrument is called *BUCKING*.—(2) A pleonastic term given to a negro, *e.g.*, a *BUCK-NIGGER*.—*See also BULL-NIGGER*.

You see my *BUCK* brethren, that the women are bound to get the better of us. If they can't do it in one way, they will in another. In them you behold the wild-cat, the lamb and the dove. They first let loose their untamed feline propensities; next they give the juvenile sheep a trial; and, if that fail, they rely upon the loving pigeon.—*Dow's Sermons*,

—(3) In the West Indies and South America, an Indian.—(4)

(Cant). The driver of a public cab; also a flash swell.—To BUCK (Western).—(1) This term, as applied to horses, consists in plunging forward and throwing the head to the ground in an effort to unseat the rider—a motion of which probably no domesticated beast is capable, aside from the Texan miserable and treacherous species of horse. A raw hand thus relates his experience:—"When I was told how hard he could *buck*, I only laughed, my impression being that no pony standing on four legs could throw me off. I mounted my new horse, and waving my brand new hat about my head, galloped away in a dignified style. Suddenly the horse stopped. His ears went back, and his hind legs went between his front. The motion was a curious one. But I did not fall. Realizing that the man on his back could ride a little bit, the pony got right down to business. My stomach seemed to fly up into my mouth and millions of stars floated about my head. I am not prepared to state what kind of hold the pony got on me, but I went sprawling on the ground, my nose making an irrigating ditch. It was all done not more than one hundred yards from where my girl was standing. I stuck on well, however, as the saddle, blanket, gun and bridle came off with me. The wild yell that greeted my exploit nearly drove me mad. While I spit the dirt and curses out of my mouth, I thought that if I had that pony back I'd break him in or break my head. It ran out on the prairie and joined the Government herd. When an old-timer tried to fix things for me in front of my girl by saying, 'It's no disgrace, pardner, that horse can *buck* off a porous plaster,' I thanked him from the bottom of my heart."—(2) An equivalent of BUTT in the sense

of to strike with head or horn.—To BUCK THE TIGER.—To play against the bank at faro.—See TIGER.

A man may hunt the wildest game  
Along the Nile or the Niger,  
In woods or ranch;  
But he will find the sport most tame  
Compared with BUCKING THE TIGER  
At dear Long Branch.  
—*Hotel Mail*, 1888.

—At Princeton College anything which is of an intensive degree, good, excellent, pleasant or agreeable, is called *buck*.—HEARTY AS A BUCK.—Synonymous with strength and endurance, the deer or buck being largely endowed by nature with those qualities.—BUCKSOME.—Racy, with life and vigor and originality. Used by Milton.

BUCK AGUE OR BUCK FEVER.—The very nature of his occupation renders the hunter or trapper extremely observant, and rarely indeed is it that any fact connected with his surroundings escapes him. Readily and naturally enough he draws the similes used in conversation from the same source, and the nervous shyness of deer and game of a similar kind supplies him with a term to express the trepidation which at first seizes young and inexperienced sportsmen. This agitation or nervousness is called *buck ague*. Somewhat to the same effect writes R. J. Dodge in his *Plains of the Great West*:—"I have never seen a really ardent sportsman, however experienced, who did not become more or less excited when in the actual presence of game. This excitement is the culmination of the pleasure of the pursuit. With the novice it is *buck fever*, and leads to all sorts of absurd situations. . . . The best shot at game I ever saw was so nervous in its presence, that he could hardly hold his rifle, but let



him get within range, and a rock could scarcely get steadier than his rifle barrel as it blazed out almost certain death."

**BUCK BEER.**—The Bock of Bavaria; a strong, intoxicating German beer. The lager beer now well known in this country is one of the weakest of such decoctions. *Bock*, the German for "goat," is said to have been adopted for the name of this beverage in consequence of its extremely exhilarating qualities—the animal in question being considered a type of strength and friskiness. Compare with "goatish" (adj.).

**BUCK-BOARD.**—The hindmost seat, back to driver, of a vehicle of the dog-cart type.

'The BUCKBOARD's pretty small for three of us,' Mayne went on half aloud, 'but then Bessie is not very big and I can hold her on my lap.'—*New York Mercury*, 1888.

**BUCKER.**—In political parlance one who refuses to follow the lead of his party; in other words, a *BOLTER* (*q.v.*). The significance of the term will be readily apprehended on reference to *BUCK*; the image of a quadruped which jumps sideways, forwards, up and down at one and the same time is not altogether unlike the moral actions of a refractory voter.

**BUCKET SHOP.**—A petty stock gambling den carried on in opposition to regular exchange business. Under the rigid Wall Street rules every transaction is an actual purchase and sale of actual stock. The broker who sells one hundred shares of Erie actually delivers to the purchaser the certificate of stock issued by the company. But the *bucket-shop* transaction is nothing of the sort. The purchase

of Erie there means only that the purchaser bets that Erie will go up instead of down. He gets no certificate of actual stock, but simply a card saying that he has bought Erie. The actual sale on the Stock Exchange, however, governs the *bucket-shop* transaction, for the Stock Exchange transaction makes the price. The same rule serves in the petty gambling in oil, grain, and mining shares, which is constantly going on. It amounts only to a bet that the next quotation from the big Exchanges will be at a higher figure than was the last one. The magnitude of the gambling done in this way cannot be known. It is carried on in such a variety of ways, and in a manner leaving no record of the transaction, that it would be impossible to collect even approximate statistics on the subject. The facilities offered by these establishments act disastrously upon legitimate operators, despite every endeavour to restrict and even crush these "outside" brokers. It does not cost a speculator so much to buy or sell of the latter, and he may purchase one share of stock if he has one dollar to put up as a margin. The big Exchange will not deal in less than five shares, and on that number fifty dollars must be put up. The result is the crowding of the *bucket-shops* by boys and messengers and clerks, who bet every sum from one dollar to 1,000 dollars. The system admits of bigger returns than from the same amount of money legitimately invested. With 100 dollars a man can do very little in a regular Stock Exchange broker's office. It is margin for ten shares of stock only, and it would be a rare run of luck that enabled a man to double his money. To do so the market must advance ten points. In a *bucket-shop*, however,

with the same sum of money he might buy one hundred shares of stock, which would double the money at an advance of one point only, and he might quadruple it did the price advance four points. All the elements of gambling enter into the *bucket-shop* transaction. It is a quick trade as a rule, and is popular for that reason. Thousands of men gamble in them daily for a living, and hundreds of boys and young men form gambling habits there that unfit them for real work and honest application for business. The demoralizing influences of these concerns can scarcely be estimated. Indeed, it is true of Wall Street speculation in general that the man who once gets a taste of it is ever afterwards good for nothing in legitimate business. The *New York World* recently investigated the whole question and gave some very interesting details as to the many tortuous ways of these crooked corners of the money world. The conclusion arrived at was that Wall Street and its vicinity did not contain a single "square and honest" *bucket-shop*; all their dealings were nothing but "a brace gambling game." By their schemes the customer had "not the ghost of a chance to win." Their quotations are obtained surreptitiously, and, in handling them, the *bucket-shop* keepers in several ways take unfair advantage of their clients. One vantage alone is equal to fifty per cent. in their favor, namely, by holding prices back. "As an example," says the *World*—and it quotes it as being "worked in nearly every shop in the street"—"a customer is 'long' of one hundred shares of St. Paul. The market takes a 'stump' during the day and St. Paul starts to go against the customer  $\frac{1}{8}$  per cent. at a time. After it has gone  $\frac{1}{4}$  or  $\frac{3}{8}$  against him, and he is trading on 1 per cent.

margin, he will probably remargin it if it goes another  $\frac{1}{8}$ , or if the whole market looks weak he will probably close the trade and save 12.50 dols. or 25 dols. out of 100 dols. But the *bucket-shop* man watches this. When the quotations come in for St. Paul he will hold them back or sing out a false quotation, making St. Paul look a little stronger. Finally, if the market is weak he will hold the St. Paul prices back until the figure to which the customer's margin is limited, comes in. Then he will call out the prices as if St. Paul had suddenly 'broke,' or it is a 'running quotation'—thus, 'St. Paul, 89 $\frac{3}{8}$ — $\frac{1}{4}$ — $\frac{1}{8}$ —89,' which just 'wipes' the customer's margin. It is done so that he has no time to save even an eighth of his money, and he loses the entire 100 dols., without even a chance to remargin his trade. A novice would say this could be obviated by trading on 2 per cent. margin. Any old *bucket-shop* trader would say this is nonsense. Holding back quotations is also practised when the market is going steadily one way. A customer is long of 100 shares of St. Paul and it shows him 1 per cent. profit, barring the  $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. commission. He holds the stock for this extra  $\frac{1}{4}$ , with the result that the *bucket-shop* holds the price on him, and as the market always reacts after an advance, the customer will be lucky if he draws out even." The chances in favor of *bucket-shop* operations are higher than in any known gambling game. The percentage in faro, leaving out the question of chance, is the "splitters," or a turn that brings out two cards of like denomination at once, upon which the dealer takes half the bet. This does not amount to a dollar in a hundred during a deal. Roulette percentage is the eagle bird and the O's and is

very small. The *bucket-shop* percentage is  $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. on the dollar or 25 dollars in a 100 dollars. This 25 dollars is taken out of every 100 dollars as soon as the deal is made. It is deducted before any action is taken on the money whatever. But to make the game stronger for the house this percentage is taken out of the face of the contract. Thus, you deposit 100 dollars for 100 shares of St. Paul, which you go "long" of. The 100 shares are bought at 89, but, when the contract is handed out, the purchase price reads 89 $\frac{1}{4}$ . It will be seen, then, that the stock must rise 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. before 1 per cent. profit is made, while it must only decline  $\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. for the *bucket-shop* man to win the whole sum. There is not a surer game for the "house" in existence than this. Indeed the chances of *bucket-shop* customers winning are so very small that they amount to almost *nil*. As to other unfair advantages that the *bucket-shops* take, they are very numerous. One scheme that is practised in the case of large traders is to conduct sales on the Stock Exchange to wipe out the customers' trades. This is done as follows: The customer buys 1,000 dollars St. Paul on 1 per cent. margin at 89. The large *bucket-shops* have brokers who transact business for them on the Exchange. While the 1,000 dollars only really covers three-quarters of the 1 per cent. in the *bucket-shop*, the price at which only one hundred shares is traded in on the Exchange is sufficient to wipe it out. Thus, when the 1,000 dollars deal is made in the *bucket-shop* the broker is notified, who conducts a one hundred share sale on the Exchange, and goes short one hundred St. Paul at 88 $\frac{1}{4}$ , which is sufficient to wipe out the customer's 1,000 dollars. "Wash" sales are

also made by brokers, who are paid by the *bucket-shop* men. Another precaution that the *bucket-shop* men take to guard against loss is their refusal to deal. If the market is of a decidedly "bullish" tendency and the whole list is going up, of course the customers make a stampede to "buy." Then the *bucket-shop* man gets in his fine work. He will sit like a statue and refuse to take any but a few small deals, although the traders will supplicate or hurl anathemas at his head for not taking their offers. Or he will get into a heated argument with some trader and pay no attention whatever to the horde of desperate gamblers who are forcing their way to his counter with from five dollars to as many hundreds of dollars in their outstretched hands. Finally the flurry is over and the reaction is about to take place, when he will accommodate the traders and get their money about the time that the market begins to sag. The *bucket-shop* man watches the market very closely, and will refuse deals when the house is almost sure to lose. The quotations are all secretly received behind the desk, and often they are changed before being given out. Another favorite scheme of these places is to "fail" when they are hit hard by the "crowd." This has been worked almost to death by several *bucket-shop* men. Redress, there is none; but notwithstanding many of these places do an enormous business. Their patrons are mostly well-to-do business men, such as contractors, grocers and the like, who are inveigled into speculating by the *bucket-shop* steerers, who receive a percentage on all trade which they bring to the shops. Brokers' clerks and boys are also allowed to invest, and the result is, that they take their first lessons at stealing from



their employers' cash drawers, which ends in the disgrace of prison. The term *bucket-shop* has been introduced into this country, but, fortunately for the community at large, no comparison can be drawn between the establishments known by that name in England, and those which flourish in America under the same title, though in very truth the proceedings of some of the former are scandalous enough.

New York, Feb. 11.—(Special).—Inspector Byrnes was seized with another spasm of indignation against the BUCKET-SHOPS this morning, and, accompanied by detectives and a squad of officers, he swooped down upon the lairs of these enemies of the Stock Exchange that abound on Lower Broadway and New Street.—*Missouri Republican*, Feb. 12, 1888.

—(2) A low grogery.

**BUCKEY.**—The ALEWIFE (*q.v.*). Western Connecticut.

**BUCKEYE : BUCKEYE STATE : BUCKEYES.**—The State and inhabitants of Ohio. The terms are derived from the *buckeye* tree (*Aesculus glabra*) or *horse chestnut* tree which is not merely a native of the West, but peculiar to it, being the only forest tree which does not grow elsewhere in the Union. Indeed it has received from American botanists the specific name of *Ohioensis* from its abundance in the beautiful valleys of the State of Ohio.

The Ohio man has made his mark, and now the Ohio girl is coming to the fore. A BUCKEYE damsel, tired of hearing the farmers in her section growl about wheat-growing not paying, decided she'd see about it.—*Troy Daily Times*, February 8, 1888.

*Buckeyes* are very proud of the connection with their native State.

BUCKEYES are not easily conquered, and could not easily be destroyed.—*Magazine of American History*, January, 1888.

*Buckeye* is often used adjectively to signify excellence of quality.

**BUCK FEVER OR BUCK AGUE** (*q.v.*).

**BUCK FLY.**—An insect pest, which, at certain seasons of the year, becomes very troublesome to deer, sometimes being sufficient to drive them from one feeding ground to another.

**BUCKING.**—A species of VOODOOISM (*q.v.*), consisting of superstitious and barbarous rites.

The queerest thing about the poor white is, that not one was ever known to make any kind of religious profession. There is, so far as I know, but one thing in which they believe, and that is what is termed further South voodooism, or, as they term it here, BUCKING.—*Troy Daily Times*, Feb. 8, 1888.

**BUCKING-HORSE.**—See TO BUCK.

**BUCKING-IRON** (Mining).—A small flat iron tool used in *bucketing* or breaking up ores.—*Webster*.

**BUCKLER** (Cant).—A collar.

**BUCK NEGRO.**—A strong negro.—See BUCK (section 2).

**BUCK PARTY.**—An assembly composed entirely of the male sex; also STAG PARTY.

**BUCKRA.**—A negro title for a white man. Also used adjectively in the sense of "superior," "first-rate," "excellent." The Rev. J. L. Wilson, familiar with the language of the Calabar coast, informed Mr. Bartlett that the natives of that region understood by the word *buckra* a powerful, superior intelligence; hence, probably, its employment by the negroes of the American continent as a title for white men. This seems not unlikely when it is remembered that the former are descended from slaves brought, in the first instance,

mainly from the West Coast of Africa.

**BUCKSHOT WAR.**—The disturbances which occurred in Pennsylvania, in 1838, were so designated when, owing to electoral disputes, the military had to be called out, orders being issued that they should be supplied with cartridges of the *buckshot* stamp.

**BUCKSKINS.**—The pre-revolutionary cognomen of the American troops. Opinions differ as to the derivation of the term. Some think it arose because of their dressed deer or *buckskin* garments; others, that it was bestowed on account of the nucleus of Washington's troops being drawn from Virginia, a State settled by hunters, who traded in the skins of the animal in question. If we are to accept more recent instances as any criterion, the first-named derivation seems the most likely. Compare with **BOYS IN BLUE**, **JOHNNY REBS**, **BLUE BELLIES**, etc.

**BUCKTAILS.**—A political faction originating in New York in 1818, which was opposed to the administration of Governor De Witt Clinton. The members wore *bucktails* in their hats, and belonged to the benevolent association known as the **TAMMANY SOCIETY** (*q.v.*).

**BUCKWHEAT-CAKE.**—*Buckwheat* is little known in England save as food for birds, but, in the United States, it enters largely into the popular food supply, *buckwheat-cakes* being especially esteemed as delicacies.

There were no books, no newspapers, no wife of my own race and blood, no theatres, no hotels, no restaurants, no East River oysters, no mince-pies, neither **BUCKWHEAT-CAKES** nor anything that was good for a cultivated palate to love.—*Stanley's How I found Livingstone.*

**BUDGE** (Cant).—An accomplice who gains access to a building during the day for the purpose of being locked in. When night comes he is thus easily able to admit his fellow thieves.

**BUD OF PROMISE.**—A facetious slang term for a young, unmarried woman.

The young, unmarried girl, in sport,  
Is called a **BUD OF PROMISE**;  
She blooms each year at some resort,  
The weather when it warm is.  
And in the Fall a score of men,  
Whose hearts till now have harm  
missed,  
Compare sad notes, and find out then  
To each the **BUD** is promised.  
—*Charlestown Enterprise*, 1888.

**BUFE** (Cant).—In the parlance of the criminal classes a *bufe* is a dog.  
—**BUFE-NAPPER.**—A dog thief; also a mean rogue.

**BUFF.**—To **BUFF IT HOME.**—To swear hard and fast to a statement. Probably a corruption of "to bluff" as used in poker, *i.e.*, to make a bold stand without a backing upon which to rely.

**BUFFALO** (1) (*Bison americanus*).—The American **BISON** (*q.v.*).—(2) Often used instead of **BUFFALO ROBE**, the skin of that animal, it being thus distinguished from the skins of all other game. Generally speaking however, *buffalo* in this sense means a dressed skin used as a wrap or covering.—(3) An extraordinarily shaped fish (*Taurichthys*) found in the Mississippi and other Southern rivers.

**BUFFALO BERRY** (*Shepherdia argentea*).—So called from its being mostly found on the plains once frequented by the buffalo, and especially in the valleys of the Rocky Mountains. The tree attains no great height,

but its scarlet berries form an article of food with Indian tribes.

**BUFFALO BUSH.**—A native of the region round Humboldt River; a shrub, the fruit of which is called the bull-berry.

**BUFFALO CHIPS.**—The dung of the BUFFALO which, when dried, is used for fuel. Also called by the French *bois de vache* (*q.v.*).

The next day was spent looking for the buffalo supposed to be somewhere on the Ridge, which was followed up to the head of Chalcedony Creek. A great many elk were seen, a few sheep and much old buffalo sign. A camp was made on the Ridge by a large green pine, a fire was built of BUFFALO CHIPS, of which a great quantity was lying around.—*Forest and Stream*, March 15, 1888.

**BUFFALO CIDER.**—A liquid found in the stomach of the buffalo, which has sometimes served the hunter in good stead, when far removed from water.

**BUFFALO CLOVER** (*Trifolium reflexum* and *stoloniferum*).—This popular name is derived from the fact of the plant abounding in the West, once the haunt of the buffalo.

**BUFFALO GNAT.**—A small, black insect pest, common on the prairies of the West. Very pertinacious in habit, and with a poisonous bite.

**BUFFALO GRASS** (*Sestertia dactylodes*).—A short grass found in great abundance on the prairies of the West, and which, at one time, formed the favorite food of the BUFFALO. A peculiarity of this herbage is that, in winter, the blades wither, but do not fall or decay, and in the following spring they again become verdant—a process seemingly akin to the circulation of the sap in trees, with one important distinction,

namely, that whereas the tree is re-invested with leaves each season, the self-same blades of the *buffalo grass* are again and again revived.—See GRAMMA GRASS.

**BUFFALO NUT** (*Pyrulia oleifera*).—The oil nut of the West.

**BUFFALO ROBE.**—A rug or covering made of the buffalo skin. More commonly called a BUFFALO (*q.v.*).

A furious storm of wind and snow with the most intense cold set in, and we, with all the protection of the thickets, with our Sibley stoves red hot, were forced to remain under cover of piles of BUFFALO ROBES all next day.—*Dodge's Plains of the Great West*.

**BUFFALO SOLDIERS.**—Colored regiments in the United States Army. An Indian term applied to the men on duty at the military posts scattered about the Indian reservations, probably from their dark color and woolly heads.

**BUFFALO WALLOW.**—Curious depressions in the prairies are so called. These, says Dodge, are formed in the following manner. A heavy rainfall deluges the hard and level country. The water is soon absorbed by the thirsty soil, or licked up by the hot sun-rays; a portion of the soil, a little more moist than that adjoining, opens in cracks, such as can be seen in any ordinary dried-up mud hole. Another hard rain comes: these cracks are filled up by earth washed from their edges, which, packed more tightly, and retaining moisture longer than before, cracks again wider in drying. This process is repeated again and again, until quite a depression is made in the soil, which is now so tightly packed as to retain water for a considerable time. When the buffalo is shedding his coat in the spring, he is constantly endeavouring to get rid



of the superfluous hair, and, in the absence of trees against which to rub, he is frequently rolling and rubbing himself on the ground. These small water-holes are his especial delight. The buffalo is in no way necessary to the formation of the *buffalo wallow*, it being found in parts of the country where there are no buffalo. The process of formation is exactly similar to that of the *HOG WALLOW* (*q.v.*) of Southern Texas. Given certain conditions of soil, position, and rainfall, and prolific nature does the rest.

**BUFFALO WOLF.**—A lean, gaunt, and hungry looking animal, as tall as an ordinary greyhound. They are of an exceedingly cowardly disposition, one alone not possessing courage to attack even a sheep.

**BUFFERS.**—One of the names of the genus rough of American cities.

**BUG.**—(1) The term *bug* is, in the United States, not confined merely, as in England, to the domestic pest, but is applied to all insects of the Coleoptera order, which includes what in this country are generally called beetles. The English *bug* (*Cimex lectularius*) is, in the South, known as the CHINCH.

Entomology, or bugology, is now taught to some extent in our public schools. This is well, and is of use. The children ought to learn about the bugs that are destructive to useful vegetation. It is better to learn much about bugs than so much about how to solve those arithmetical problems that will never face anybody in the practical affairs of life.—*From the Grass Valley (Cal.) Tidings*, 1888.

The Insane Asylum Board some time ago discontinued a bug-killer's employment, and the doctor avers that the old hospital building is swarming with cockroaches, and that these bugs will soon be large and fat enough to carry out the inmates and take their food and clothes.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, March, 1888.

—(2) A cockade worn by servants on their hats when in livery; for instance, Mark Twain in his *Roughing It*, speaks of a turn-out of grey horses, landau, and "a coachman with a *bug* on his hat."—

(3) (Cant) A breast-pin.—(4) Also used idiomatically; as BIG-BUG (*q.v.*). A jocosely and vulgar name for a person of wealth or distinction. Thence also come CATTLE-BUGS, that is, wealthy stock-raisers; GOLD-BUGS, or monied men, etc.

'Would Senator Allison's well-known views on silver coinage operate materially against him in New York?'

'I think not; I do not think the feeling against silver is anything like as strong as it was. Of course, a few GOLD-BUGS might fight him, but any of the men I have mentioned are reasonably certain to carry New York.'—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, March 5, 1888.

—THAT BEATS THE BUGS, *i.e.*, that beats cock-fighting.

**BUGAROCH** (Cant).—Pretty.

**BUGGING** (Cant).—Policemen are *bugged* in criminal class phraseology when bribed by thieves.

**BUGGY.**—The American *buggy* differs somewhat from its English prototype. The latter runs on two wheels, while the former is a light, one-horse, four-wheeled vehicle, usually with one seat and with or without a hood.

**BUGGY** (*Adj.*).—Eaten with worms.

Why, from where every part of the vessel, except the sappy, *buggy*, dry-rotted wood she is built with, comes from—England.—*Sam Slick's Clockmaker*, sermon iii., chap. vi.

**BUG-JUICE.**—The Schlechter whiskey of the Pennsylvania Dutch—a very inferior spirit. Also called BUG-POISON. These terms are now applied to bad whiskey of all kinds.

It is a singular fact, that nearly every character introduced by Charles Dickens into his numerous novels, was addicted to drinking . . . each and every individual took his BUG-POISON with surprising regularity and eminent satisfaction.—*Texas Siftings*, July 7, 1888.

**BUGLEWEED** (*Lycopus virginicus*).—A medicinal plant, also known as the VIRGINIA WATER HOREHOUND, which, taken as a tea, or manufactured into a sweet-meat, is a favorite remedy in affections of the chest. It is not unknown in England.

**BUG OUT, To.**—To extend or expand; idiomatically to be filled with astonishment.

I read considerable to Jim about kings, and dukes, and earls, and such, and how gaudy they dressed, and how much style they put on, and called each other 'your majesty,' and 'your grace,' and 'your lordship,' and so on, 'stead of mister; and Jim's eyes BUGGED OUT, and he was interested.—*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, p. 119.

**BUILD, To.**—A verb used with much more latitude in the States than in England, where 'as Fenimore Cooper puts it everything is built. The priest *builds up* a flock; the speculator a fortune; the lawyer a reputation; the landlord a town; and even the tailor *builds up* a suit of clothes. A fire is *built* instead of made, probably from the piling up of logs one upon another for that purpose in the backwoods. The expression is even extended to individuals, to be *built* being used with the meaning of formed. "I was not *built* that way"; and hence in a still more idiomatic sense to express unwillingness to adopt a specified course or carry out any inconvenient plan.

We cannot shut our eyes to the fact that mankind is passing through a great era of change; even womankind is not *BUILT* as she was a few brief years ago.—*American Humorist*, May 12, 1882.

'Why didn't you roll down?'

'I wasn't *BUILT* that way.'

—*Missouri Republican*, Jan. 25, 1888.

Congress-men have sometimes hired literary grubs to *BUILD* speeches for them.—*Mark Twain's Gilded Age*, chap. xlii.

**BUILDING BEE.**—The practice of neighbors uniting with a newcomer, in any settlement, to clear his land and build him a house. A joint effort which, in a few hours, furnishes the settler with what would otherwise take him weeks to provide.—*See BEE*.

**BULLDOSE, BULLDOZE, BULLDOSE, BULLDOZE.**—To intimidate; to bully. A term of Southern political origin, originally referring to an association of negroes formed to insure, by violent and unlawful means, the success of an election. The phrase has now passed into general use, political and otherwise, to signify the adoption and use of coercive measures. The derivation is almost literal—a *bull dose*, a flogging with a strip of hide; the action itself being represented by the verb to *BULLDOSE*. Though indifferently spelt both with single and double "l" and with "s" and "z," the correct version is *bulldoze*. An office-seeker, after several vain attempts to obtain a definite promise from a member of the Cabinet, was informed that his request would be taken into consideration, whereupon—

'That's no answer at all!' shouted the caller. 'I know you! You are not fit for your place! I'll look after you!' and he uttered sundry oaths, and hammered the desk with his fist.

'See here!' said the secretary: 'I'm not to be *BULLDOZED* by you! I know my business and shall attend to it, and hope you will attend to yours.'—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, March 7, 1888.

The Democrats complain of the amount of money they had to face, but that was not such a source of trouble as the *BULLDOZING* of voters by the mining bosses. They were driven to the polls, and compelled to vote for

Seymour.—*Detroit Evening Journal*, Feb. 20, 1888.

A Democratic paper thus delivers itself concerning the negro vote.

The Republican party sought to hold the negroes through their churches and societies. If it were not for this system of intimidation and BULLDOZING by their preachers and leaders, the Republican party would not have enough colored votes in the South to furnish pall-bearers at the approaching funeral of that party in 1888. [Applause and laughter on the Democratic side.]

**BULGE.**—To GET THE BULGE ON ONE. (Mining slang).—To obtain an advantage over; an equivalent is TO GET THE DROP ON ONE.

'Pop! are you up there?'

'Yes, my son.'

'I saw he had the BULGE on you and I got the gun and dropped him!'

'Right, my boy. That's what I was praying for.'—*American Humorist*, May 12, 1888.

Well, you've rather got the BULGE on me. Or maybe we've both got the BULGE, somehow.—*Mark Twain's Innocents at Home*, p. 18.

—To GO OR BE ON A BULGE. To drink to excess.

**BULGER.**—A *bulger* town, tree, fish—anything uncommonly large. A Western phrase, probably from BULGE to swell. Also known in England.

**BULL** (Cant).—A locomotive; the word is sometimes lengthened into BULLGINE.—At Dartmouth College to recite badly; to make a poor recitation. From the substantive *bull*, a blunder or contradiction, or from the use of the word as a prefix, signifying large, lubberly, blundering.

**BULL-BAT** (1) (*Caprimulgus americanus*).—The night-hawk. The CHUCK WILL'S WIDOW; also known as the WHIP-POOR-WILL from its peculiar cry.—(2) BULL-BATS.—

A gang of rowdies in Washington City.

**BULL-BOAT.**—In the remote West the name of an ox-hide boat, once commonly enough used for crossing rivers; similar in shape to the ancient British coracle.

**BULL-BRIAR** OR **BAMBOO-BRIAR.**—This plant derives its former name from the size which it attains in the rich alluvial bottoms of the South-west, where alone it is to be found. Its root is of a farinaceous character, and is much esteemed by the Indians for bread-making purposes. "Bull" is in America a general prefix for "large."

**BULL-DOG.**—A pistol.

**BULL-DRAG, TO.**—To go from place to place hurriedly and without cessation.

If he will go a BULLDRAGGIN' of me about, I'll resign and go right off home agin.—*Sam Slick in England*, chap. xxxii.

**BULL FROG** (*Rana pipiens*).—A large species of frog with a deep harsh croak. These reptiles, in the tropics, literally make night hideous with their chorus, especially on the near approach of rain.

**BULLHEAD.**—A popular name, together with HORNED-POUT, MUD-POUT and MINISTER for several varieties of the genus *Pimelodus*, but which is, perhaps, more commonly known as the CAT-FISH, CAT, or CATTY. This fish has a thick head and long feelers, is usually dark in color, prefers the mud, and in the Mississippi attains a considerable size, sometimes even growing to a length of three or four feet, besides possessing great strength. From one or other of these character-



istics or habits are derived its popular names, hence.—**BULL-HEADED** in the transatlantic senses of (1) clumsy; (2) strong.

You see, old Mann used to own and command a pickaninny, **BULL-HEADED**, mudturtle-shaped craft of a schooner that hailed from Perth Amboy.—*Mark Twain's Screemers*.

Well, then, let it go, let it go, if you're so **BULL-HEADED** [headstrong] about it. We can get you some garter-snakes, and you can tie some buttons on their tails, and let on they're rattlesnakes, and I reckon they'll have to do.—*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, p. 391.

**BULL LION**.—A punning play upon "John Bull," the generic nickname of an Englishman, the "lion" as the national emblem of England, and "bullion" in reference to his wealth and love of money. A half-sarcastic, half-jocose name for an Englishman.

**BULLION STATE**.—The State of Missouri. One of its most distinguished sons, Colonel Thomas H. Benton, at the time when the question of paper *versus* gold and silver currency was to the front, strongly urged the adoption of the latter, and thereby earned for himself the nickname of "Old Bullion," and for the State from which he came, that of the *Bullion State*.

**BULL-NIGGER**.—A large powerfully-built negro.

If there was a thing on airt that Ahab hated like pison, I do believe it was a great **BULL-NIGGER**.—*Sam Slick's Clockmaker*, sermon iii., chap. iv.

**BULL NUT**.—A large variety of hickory nut.

**BULL'S EYE**.—A small, thick turnip-shaped watch.

With some trouble he dragged up an ancient looking, thick, silver **BULL'S-EYE**

watch. He looked at it for a moment—hesitated—then opened the watch, and handed me the loose outside case without a word.—*O. W. Holmes's Autocrat of the Breakfast Table*, p. 221.

Sometimes called **BRITISH BULL'S-EYE**.

**BULL-TAILING**.—A Mexican term in use in the Western prairies. Well-mounted horsemen chase the bulls, and when a favorable opportunity offers, seize them by the tails and turn them somersaults. This requires considerable skill, and is done to perfection by Texan cowboys.

**BULL-TRAPS** (Cant).—A name given to those personating a policeman.

**BULLWHACKER**.—An ox-team driver. The derivation is doubtless from the drastic measures sometimes required to be put into practice when driving cattle for long distances. Many of these men were also expert buffalo hunters.

To guard against the numerous mishaps of prairie travel, two or three of these prairie schooners usually go together, the brawny teamsters, known either as **BULL-WHACKERS** or as **MULE-SKINNERS**, stalking beside their slow-moving teams.—*Ranch Life in the Far West*.

The largest contract for shooting buffalo was made by me with the Government in 1872, I agreeing to kill 5,000 and deliver them at the Plum Creek station on the Union Pacific in less than three months. Having made the contract, I hastily made preparations to carry it out. I employed old-time **BULL-WHACKERS**, who had done nothing but scare about buffaloes all their life, and in a short time I had eighteen bull-teams and drivers employed, besides extra men whom we termed butchers, whose duty it was to dress the animals and load them. When everything was in readiness, I gave instructions to the wagon boss, and the long bull-team moved away.—*San Francisco Weekly Examiner*, Feb. 23, 1888.

**BULLY**.—A word used in an entirely different sense to the primary colloquial English one of an over-

bearing rowdy or blusterer. To say that one has had a *bully* time or that any person or thing is *bully*, is to give the highest mead of praise. It is synonymous with our own slang use of the word "crack" in "a crack corps," "a crack shot," etc. Opinions vary on which side of the water *bully* was revived, for in reality it is a good old English term, having been used by Shakespeare and other writers. As a term of appreciation, Mark Twain in one of his sketches says of a bad boy: "He ate that jam, and said it was *bully*, in his sinful vulgar way; and he put in the tar, and said that was *bully* also, and laughed, and observed 'that the old woman would get up and snort' when she found it out; and when she did find it out he denied knowing anything about it, and she whipped him severely, and he did the crying himself."

Hope you have a pleasant nap. *BULLY* place for a nice quiet snooze—empty stage, sir.—*Bret Harte's Lonely Ride*.

Take him all round, pard, there never was a *BULLIER* man in the mines.—*Mark Twain's Innocents at Home*, pp., 19, 20.

—(Cant).—A weapon formed by tying a stone or a piece of lead in a handkerchief.. This is used knuckleduster fashion. It has given rise to many catch phrases such as—*THAT'S BULLY FOR YOU*, grand or fine; which during the Civil War had a remarkably popular run—also *BULLY BOY WITH THE GLASS EYE*.—A good fellow.

You ought to seen him get started once. He was a *BULLY BOY WITH A GLASS EYE*.—*Mark Twain's Innocents at Home*, p. 20.

**BUMMER** also **BUM**.—Primarily an idle, worthless fellow. During the Civil War, a camp-follower or straggler, especially as connected with General Sherman's march

from Atlanta to the sea. Now used in a political as well as a general sense.

Coy is the chairman of the Democratic Central Committee in Marion County, and has wielded great power in politics as the boss of the *BUMMERS*.—*Philadelphia Press*, Jan. 29, 1888.

He finds that ten per cent. of the men who patronise these places have a collegiate education; forty per cent. are self-supporting, but prefer this precarious mode of living to anything more respectable; ten per cent. earn excellent wages, and twenty per cent. are chronic *bums*, who beg or steal the price of their lodgings.—*Detroit Free Press*, 1888.

Also used as a general term of reproach in the same way as rascal, blackleg, etc., are used in England. Thus San Francisco has been called the Elysium of *bummers*. Nowhere can a worthless fellow, too lazy to work, too cowardly to steal, get on so well. The climate befriends him, for he can sleep out of doors four-fifths of the year. He can gorge himself daily for a nominal sum, and get a dinner that a king might envy for fifty cents. *Bummer* is most probably from the German *bummeler*. Equivalents are *HEELER*, *STRIKER*, *STUFFER*, *PRACTICAL POLITICIAN*.—Also *BUMMERISM* to express habits of loafing and petty stealing.

**BUMPER**.—The buffer on a railway; perhaps the more appropriate term of the two.

**BUMPOLOGIZE, To**.—A factitious word used in connection with phrenology. Literally to read the "bumps" or depressions in the conformation of the human cranium.

T'other hand goes to the head, *BUMPOLOGIZIN'*, and I whispers—wit, paintin', judgment, fancy, order.—*Sam Slick's Clockmaker*, sermon iii., chap. viii.

**BUMSQUABBLED**.—More generally written *BAMSQUABBLED* (*q.v.*).

**BUMY JUICE.**—Malt liquor of any kind.

**BUN.**—This corruption of the old English BUNN (a survival of which we see in BUNNY) for rabbit is in America often applied to the squirrel.

**BUN** (Cant).—A sponger; one who cannot be shaken off.

**BUNCH.**—(1) Used in mining to signify an irregular mass of ore.

There is no doubt that some ore will be found, as rich BUNCHES exist all through this ground. That it will amount to much is another question, but the feature of speculation ought to make the shares active during the operation.—*San Francisco News Letter*, February 4, 1888.

—(2) A GROUP.

The buffaloes which used to roam these plains in great herds are gone. Occasionally a solitary animal is found, or perhaps a little BUNCH of half-a-dozen, lurking in a ravine among the bad lands.—*Century Magazine*, 1887.

—BUNCH, TO. To collect, to bring together.

Two men often BUNCH on the march, *i.e.*, unite their herds for convenience in driving.—*Overland Monthly*, 1887.

The speaker BUNCHED his thick lips together like the stem end of a tomato.—*Mark Twain's Gilded Age*, chap. i.

With an unbroken line worthy of the *Cent-Gardes*, the swift impetus carried the sweeping crowd half-way from the ridge to the sleepy elk before the latter gained their feet, and by the time the dumbfounded brutes had BUNCHED,—the first act of an affrighted herd,—we were right in among them.—*Century Magazine*.

**BUNCH-GRASS.**—*Bunch-grass* grows on the bleak mountain-sides of Nevada, and neighbouring territories, and offers excellent feed for stock, even in the dead of winter, wherever the snow is blown aside and exposes it; notwithstanding its unpromising home, *bunch-grass* is a better and more nutritious diet for

cattle and horses than almost any other hay or grass that is known—so stockmen say.—*Mark Twain*.

**BUNCO, BUNCO, TO.**—To rob, cheat or swindle by means allied to what is called in England the confidence trick.

Detectives Kirby and Funk last night spotted J. P. Ramby, the person accused of having BUNKOED Ex-County Commissioner Stephens, of Greene County, out of 2,300 dols. in Xenia recently.—*Cincinnati Enquirer*, Aug. 20, 1887.

John Brothers, a farmer living near Canton, Ohio, was BUNKOED out of 2,000 dols. today by two sharpers who escaped.—*Chicago Daily Inter-Ocean*, April 14, 1888.

From this we get such compounds as BUNCO-CASE, BUNCO-GAME, etc., to signify the action itself.

Robert B. Barnett, a plumber doing business in Grant Street, this city, was arrested in Allegheny to-night, on the charge of being implicated in the recent BUNCO game in which William Murdoch, an old and prominent citizen, was robbed of 10,000 dols.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, Feb. 2, 1888.

The men who thus swindle, are termed BUNCO-MEN or BUNCO-STEERERS, and the means they adopt to win confidence are always varied and sometimes unique. Mr. Walter Besant, in his *Golden Butterfly*, a novel which treats largely of some aspects of transatlantic life, pithily describes some of these practices. He says:—"The BUNCO-STEERER . . . will find you out the morning after you land in Chicago or St. Louis. He will accost you—very friendly, wonderful friendly—when you come out of your hotel, by your name, and he will remind you—which is most surprising, considerin' you never set eyes on his face before—how you have dined together in Cincinnati, or it may be Orleans, or perhaps Francisco, because he finds out where you came from last; and he will shake hands with you; and he will pro-



pose a drink; and he will pay for that drink; and presently he will take you somewhere else, among his pals, and he will strip you so clean, that there won't be left the price of a four-cent paper to throw around your face and hide your blushes. In London . . . they do . . . the confidence trick." These men are extremely wary, and it is oftentimes with considerable difficulty that the arm of the law, long as it is assumed to be, can lay hold of them. A **BUNCO-STEERER** may be well known to the police as a professional swindler, and he may be seen talking to his intended victim, but, unless caught in an overt act, they cannot be interfered with. People whom **BUNCO-STEERERS** lay their snares for, are generally men who stand high in their communities; consequently it is almost impossible to get victims to become complainants, as they do not care to figure in the police courts, and the thieves get practically a free field for their operations.

Andrew Carnegie fell into the hands of a **BUNCO-STEERER** in Pittsburg, Saturday night, but was rescued by a detective before he lost anything.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, Feb. 14, 1888.

**BUNCOME, BUNCOMBE, BUNKUM**, etc.—

Talking merely for talk's sake. The original employment of the word in this sense is ascribed to a Member of Congress, Felix Walker, from Buncombe County, North Carolina, who explained that he was merely talking for *buncombe*, when his fellow members could not understand why he was making a speech. Now universal on both sides of the water, and, indeed, wherever English is spoken. So much is this the case that the expression may now fairly claim a permanent place in the language. The primary meaning has been

somewhat enlarged. "That's all *buncombe*" is equivalent to "That's all nonsense, or an absurdity."

This thing of trying to rule a husband is all **BUNCOMBE**; it can't be done. You can coax most men, bribe some, and govern a very few, but that vulgar rubbing of the fur the right way wins every time.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, March 3, 1888.

You have no idea of the enthusiasm which has been aroused in our district by the introduction of Americanism into our schools. There is no spread-eagleism or **BUNCOMBE** about it either, but the natural response to touching a chord which is found in every man's, woman's, and child's heart. At least 50 per cent. of the scholars in our public schools have foreign-born parents, and are brought up in the midst of ideas alien to the American idea.—*Chicago Mail*, 1888.

**BUNDLE, To.**—A custom now obsolete, but formerly in vogue where bed accommodation was scarce, of men and women sleeping on the same bed together without having removed their clothes. The practice is mentioned by Wright as having been customary in Wales, and it will be remembered that Washington Irving alludes to it in his *Knickerbocker History of New York*. Whatever may have been the case in former times, it does not appear to be a habit either in the Mother Country or the New World at the present time, even in the districts most remote from civilization. No question of immodesty seems to have attached to the custom; indeed, attempts were made to prove that **BUNDLING** was very right and proper. On this point, however, opinions will vary considerably.

**BUNG (Cant).**—A purse or pocket.

**BUNGAY.**—**GO TO BUNGAY!** A euphemistic oburgation equivalent to consignment to a region the climate of which is tropical in character.

**BUNGFUNGER, To.**—To startle; to confuse. Compare with **BAMB-SQUABBLED**.

Well, father, I thought he'd a fainted too, he was so struck up all of a heap, he was completely BUNGFUNGERED.—*Sam Slick's Clockmaker*, chap. xx.

**BUNGO.**—A Southern name for a species of small boat; from the Spanish *bongo*.

**BUNGTOWN COPPERS.**—Spurious copper coinage. *Bungtown* is from the slang term "to bung," meaning "to lie" or "deceive." A great many counterfeit English halfpence known as Birmingham coppers were in circulation in New York State in 1785-6. They were made in Birmingham by order of a New York merchant, and imported in casks under the name of hardware or wrought copper. This was the special origin of the word, but the same name was afterwards given to all spurious copper coins.

**BUNK.**—A contrivance used on lumbermen's sleds, by which heavy timber is supported.—To BUNK.  
—(1) To retire to rest—from "bunk," a berth or bed on board ship.—(2) A lumberman's term for a deceitful practice which consists in so arranging lumber for inspection that a false impression is conveyed as to the cubic contents of any given pile or stack.

**BUNKER** (*Alosa menhaden*).—See BONY FISH.

**BUNT.**—A tailless fowl. Pennsylvania.

**BUREAUS.**—There are no offices in America; *bureaus* have taken their place. The language of officialdom, it may be remarked, is mainly pure French, or of French derivation.

**BURGALL** (*Ctenolabrus caeruleus*).—This fish, like many other popular species, boasts of several names—

BLUE PERCH, CONNER, and THE NIBBLER (in New England waters); it goes by the name of *burgall* in New York. It is small in size and very plentiful as a food fish, being found as far south as Delaware Bay.

**BURGALOO.**—A corruption of the French *virgalieu*, a much esteemed species of pear.—*New York*.

**BURGLARIZE, TO.**—TO COMMIT A BURGLARY.

'What have you been doing for a living lately?' asked a very tough looking citizen of a man who looked as if he might be a boon companion. BURGLARIZING.—*Merchant Traveler*, 1888.

A somewhat shorter form is to BURGLE, with its past participle BURGLED.

**BURGOO.**—A Southern and South-western term akin to BARBECUE (*q.v.*). The feast, however, was furnished by hunters and fishermen—everything, fish, flesh, and fowl being compounded into a vast stew. After this was disposed of, speeches were made, if the meeting was of a political character.

**BURIAL PERMITS.**—Certificates authorising the burial of the dead.

YESTERDAY'S BURIAL PERMITS. Franz Mueller, 60 years, 3532, North Broadway—suicide.

Clay Vorbeck, 3 months, 3228, Chouteau Avenue—bronchitis.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, 1888.

**BURLINGTON.**—At Middlebury College, a water-closet; a privy. So called on account of the good natured rivalry between that institution and the University of Vermont at Burlington.

**BURNT DISTRICT.**—So frequent and devastating have been large fires in many of the cities of the Union

that the term *burnt district* to signify the part destroyed by fire has become quite familiar.

I think one would be able to tell the *BURNT DISTRICT* by the radical improvement in its architecture over the old forms. One can do this in Boston and Chicago.—*Mark Twain's Life on the Mississippi*, p. 379.

**BURRITES.**—An independent political party organized and led by Aaron Burr in 1797. Its existence was short-lived, terminating with Burr's overwhelming defeat at the polls the same year.

**BURRO.**—The Mexican jackass. These animals are mainly used as pack-wood carriers. Also called *CUDDY*. *Burro* means primitively stupid, an idea which has been enshrined in the well-known Spanish proverb "*es un burro en el trato*"—he drudges like an ass. The origin of "cuddy" is on the other hand obscure.

Travellers use *BURROS* to climb mountains with. I have discovered that it is as easy to climb alone as to climb up with a *BURRO* between your legs and push him along in front. The *BURRO* is a condensed jackass. He is little all over except his ears and voice. He has long hair all over his body, four legs, two ears and one tail. As a vocalist the *BURRO* stands without a rival.—*American Humorist*.

**BURR OAK** (*Quercus macrocarpa*).—Also *OVER-CUP* and *WHITE OAK*. One of the most useful and ornamental of the genus which abounds in the Middle and Western States. It grows to almost sixty feet in height, and is well clothed with dark green foliage. The wood is tough, close-grained, and durable.

**BURROWING OWL** (*Pholoeptynx cucularia*).—A bird of abnormal habits, on account of which it is also called the *DAY OWL*. It frequents the forsaken burrows of the "villages" of the *PRAIRIE DOG*.

**BURST, BURSTER.**—See *BUST* and *BUSTER*.

**BURT.**—At Union College, a privy is called the *burt*, from a person of that name, who many years ago was employed as the architect and builder of the latrine of that institution.

**BURY.**—Go *BURY YOURSELF!*—A Californianism which has more of the *fortiter* than the *suaviter* in its composition. Equivalent to "Go! hide your diminished head."

**BUSH** (Dutch, *bosch*; German, *busch*).—This word which in England generally refers to a single shrub or thicket, is in America and all the English colonies applied to uncultivated land covered with trees and undergrowth—*i.e.*, to the primeval or virgin forest land. The use of the word in this extended sense is thought to have originated among the New York German or Dutch element, and thence, having secured a foothold in America, to have travelled to Canada, Australia, and other countries as they were opened up to emigration. The word is convenient, and has now passed permanently into the language. — **THAT TAKES THE RAG OFF THE BUSH.**—To out-do; to surpass. A term of Western origin, the allusion being to the skill displayed by hunters in handling their rifles. In friendly shooting matches any mark, a rag on a bush a chance squirrel, bird, or, even a moth on the wing would serve as a target, and the man who did not fail in the first named feat was said to have *taken the rag off the bush*. — **BUSH BEAN** (*Phaseolus vulgaris*).—An old favorite amongst vegetables, being the English kidney or French bean. Other American popular names are *STRING BEANS*.



(from the stringy or fibrous parings); SNAP BEANS; or simply SNAPS.—

BUSH MEETING.—A gathering in the woods for the purpose of open-air preaching, and other religious exercises. These, like camp meetings, are very popular during the hot weather; but, while the latter partake largely of a permanent character, lasting sometimes for weeks and even months at a stretch, the former term is more usually applied to a gathering of a day's duration. A few seats are roughly placed, little other preparation being made; the meetings, however, as a rule last from early morning till late at night, the occasion serving (especially among the negroes where the custom still most largely survives) as an excuse for a frolic also.—

BUSH-WHACKER.—In politics, as in war, simply a "free-lance." During the Rebellion deserters from the ranks of both armies infested the country, bands of these marauders making raids upon defenceless houses and even going the length of sacking whole towns. Originally the term was harmless enough in meaning. At a time when water-communication was the chief means of locomotion and the rivers, streams, and creeks of densely wooded regions were alive with the advance guards of civilization, *bush-whacking* was the name given to the means by which lumbermen propelled their craft up and down stream. This was accomplished by pulling the bushes growing by the water side; or, on land, by the cutting away of a thicket in order to obtain a passage. The man who did this, and the instrument—a kind of scythe or cutlass with which, in the latter case, he thus forced his way—were alike called a *bush-whacker*. The word has gone through yet another transition. Since the war it has also come to mean a "country

bumpkin" a "clod-pole" or any other person of a "verdant" character.

**BUSIEST FOUR CORNERS ON EARTH.—**

The corners of Broadway and Fulton Street, in New York City.

**BUSNAPPER (Cant).—**A policeman.

BUSS.—Besides being more frequently used in the States in the old English provincial sense of a rough kiss (Gaelic *bus*, a mouth) it also has in the West the meaning of "to punch," a popular threat being "I'll *buss* your head." Used both as a noun and verb.

BUST (*n. and v.*).—More than one meaning attaches to this word. Amongst the vulgar it is synonymous with a spree; the wind-up of a frolic, and is generally accompanied by boisterous drunkenness. In familiar usage, the same term is applied to a failure or breakdown; the man who has *busted*, being one who has come to grief in his commercial affairs, or failed in his undertakings. The noun is sometimes varied with BUSTER, which, generally, is taken to mean either anything large in size, a man of great strength, or a drinking bout, accompanied by free and easy practices of all kinds—dancing, gambling and prostitution, either singly or combined.—To BE ON A BUST.—To indulge in the afore-said practices; also "to come" or "go a buster." Now common in England, but of Californian origin. The word itself is, of course, only a corrupt pronunciation of "burst," the figure of speech being the idea of excess. Those who seek the derivation of *buster* in bustard (an archaic form of buzzard) do not seem to possess much ground for their contention.

He tackled some of them regular BUSTERS, [in this case crackjaw words or tongue twisters] and they throwed him.—*Mark Twain's Literature in the Dry Diggings.*

St. Louis is on top to-night. The San Francisco boom is BUSTED, and the fight is now narrowed to Chicago and St. Louis.—*Missouri Republican*, Feb. 22, 1888.

**BUST-HEAD.**—A Western term for common whiskey. It is curious to note how rich and varied is the West in terms for neat liquor, which, to judge from the similes used, must more often than not be execrably bad in quality. In not a few cases the idea enshrined in these epithets seems to point to the rapidity with which they send a man to the end of life's journey. The vernacular of the West, however, is always brutal in its plain outspoken cynicism, as may be seen by comparing *bust-head* with STONE-FENCE, RAILROAD, FORTY-ROD - LIGHTNING, STAGGER - JUICE, TANGLE-FOOT, TURPENTINE, BALD-FACE, etc., all of which are synonyms for whiskey.

**BUSY, To** (University).—To attend to—a corruption of "to busy oneself about."

The poor crook was almost annihilated by this summons, and clinging to the bed-clothes in all the agony of despair, over-looked to BUSY his midnight visitor.—*Harvard Register.*

**BUTCHER BIRD** (*Lanius septentrionalis*).

—A bird of the shrike kind (*Collyris*), about nine inches long and thirteen inches broad from tip to tip of wing, and, in general appearance, of a dull slate color. Despite the fact of its mean appearance and songlessness, this bird is in Canada and some of the Northern States confounded with the true mocking-bird (*Mimus polyglottus*). An interesting piece of folk-lore is connected with its popular name of THE NINE-KILLER, the superstition being

that the *butcher bird* actually and exactly kills and impales nine grasshoppers a day as his store of food, a notion which is quoted by Dr. de Kay in his *Natural History of New York*.

**BUTT.**—Common in the West as a contracted form of "buttock." The same abbreviation is in use in the West of England for a buttock of beef only.—To BUTT, in the South-west, to oppose.

**BUTTE** (French, *butte*).—No word in English exactly conveying the precise meaning of this French word, has led to its naturalization and incorporation into the common speech of Californian, and subsequently, American life generally, the nearest approach being knob. A *butte* is a hill or ridge detached and rising abruptly from the level, but which, though not lofty enough to be designated a mountain, is yet too imposing to be called a mere hill. The *buttes* of the Rocky Mountains and Oregon are extremely picturesque as landmarks, a notably conspicuous one being that known as the *Butte au chien* in the vicinity of the Red River, which, says Sir George Simpson, in his *Overland Journey*, towers "with a height of about 400 feet over a boundless prairie as level and smooth as a pond."

The two BUTTES . . . is a single hill of about 500 feet above the plain, the top of which is broken away in the middle, leaving two almost conical flat-topped peaks, more than 300 feet apart at the summits, and each rising probably 200 feet above their common base. It is a very prominent and well-known landmark, and can be seen, under favorable conditions, for more than sixty miles. The country is an alternation of nearly level plain and very broken ground, and would be easy to get lost in, but for these BUTTES.—*Richard Irvine Dodge's Plains of the Great West.*

**BUTTEKER** (Cant).—A shop.

**BUTTERBIRD** (West Indies).—The BOBOLINK (*q.v.*).

**BUTTER-BUSH**.—A corruption of BUTTON-BUSH (*q.v.*).

**BUTTERED** (Cant).—Whipped; also, as in English slang usage, "flattered."

**BUTTER FISH** (*Muraenoides*).—A common slimy fish; hence its popular name, the idea conveyed in which is akin to that in "butter fingers," *i.e.*, it is difficult to handle.

**BUTTERFLIES OF THE STAGE**.—Ballet dancers. The name is derived from the always light and airy, and sometimes gorgeous dress worn by such in pursuit of their calling.

'Go to the corner at say eleven o'clock at night,' he continued, 'and see what a lot of stage struck dudes gather there. The stage entrance to the Bijou is just above the corner, and the mashers gather there to meet BUTTERFLIES OF THE STAGE, and then adjourn to the neighbouring restaurants to blow in the wealth they have succeeded in coaxing from a fond mother or an over-indulgent father in supper and wine or oysters and beer, according to the liberality of the parents aforesaid.—*New York Herald*, March 25, 1888.

**BUTTERFLY**.—This word in the States is rather a misnomer when contrasted with English usage. Night flying moths are popularly, but erroneously, called *butterflies*, the former being confined to the domestic pest. A similar confusion exists between "beetles" and "bugs."

**BUTTERINE**.—Of American origin, but now equally applied in England, as in the States, to a spurious kind of butter, composed of fatty substances other than cream; also called OLEO-MARGARINE, MARGARINE, etc. The sale of these substitutes for butter is now prohibited by

law in England, except distinctly sold under their true names and character, while in America even restaurant keepers are required to make public announcement if they use the article in their business.

**BUTTERNUTS**.—Equivalent in the North to COPPERHEADS (*q.v.*). It is derived from the popular name of a coarse brown homespun cloth commonly worn by Confederate soldiers during the Civil War.

**BUTTON-BUSH** (*Cephalanthus occidentalis* and *canadensis*).—A shrub which abounds on the American continent, growing in low-lying swampy districts, and the globular flowers of which resembling buttons, supply its distinctive name.

**BUTTONING-UP**.—A Wall Street phrase referring to the action of brokers who, having speculated in stock, find it cast upon their hands at a loss, and who for any reason keep the fact of such speculation secret.

**BUTTON-WORD** (*Platanus occidentalis*).—A New England term for the Sycamore; also called BUTTON-BALL TREE. In winter these trees are covered with suspended ball-shaped seed vessels—hence the popular name.

**BUTTY**.—Explained by quotation.

The place of BUTTY, or helper, even, was not so very easy of acquirement.—*Pinkerton's Mollie Maguires and Detectives*.

**BUY**.—To BUY INTO.—To acquire a share of anything—an idiom which Mark Twain is fond of using.

Why three years ago if a man . . . went over to Washoe and BOUGHT INTO a good silver mine, etc.—*Mark Twain's Enquiry about Insurances*.



**BUZZARD.**—A name applied to a vulture instead of to a hawk.

**BUZZER.**—A pickpocket. English slang "buz-bloke."

**BUZZING** (Cant).—(1) Searching or looking for; as "What are you buzzing?"—(2) Confidential talk.

**BUZZ-SAW.**—A circular saw.

Paul Haster was given employment in the Shipman keg factory and had been at work but a few minutes when his left hand got caught by a BUZZ-SAW, mangling the thumb and two fingers of his hand.—*Missouri Republican*, Feb. 16, 1888.

**BY AND AGAIN.**—Now and then. A Southern adverbial phrase.

**BY AND LARGE.**—To take it *by and large* is a slang phrase, equivalent to "taking it all round," or "after due thought," or "all in all."

Taking it BY AND LARGE, as the sailors say, we had a pleasant ten days' run from New York to the Azores.—*Mark Twain's Innocents Abroad*.

You'll search one while [*i.e.*, a long time] . . . afore you'll find a man that, take him BY AND LARGE, is equal to one of your free and enlightened citizens.—*Sam Slick's Clockmaker*, chap. xvi.

**BY-BIDDER.**—An auctioneer's decoy who, by spurious bidding, runs up prices.

**BY CRACKY!**—A meaningless exclamation.

Say, haint Tubbs a Methodist? By CRACKY, here's where it is, and in we walked.—*Superior Inter-Ocean*.

**BY GOLLEY!** OR **BY GOLLY!**—A negro oath.

**BY GUM!** **BY GUMMY!**—Both these expletives are extracts from the great American *Dictionary of Oaths and Cuss Words* compiled by descendants of the Puritan Fathers.—See DADBINGED.

**BY GORRAM!**—An oath. Bartlett says it is "euphemistic," in which case what in the world would cacophonous blasphemy be like?

**BY JINGS!**—A corruption of "by jingo," a phrase which, as used by most people, possesses no significance beyond that of a vulgar expletive.

So we come home. And BY JINGS, I am getting up one of them wheels that will knock Pauly Bros. higher than Gilroy's kite.—*Superior Inter-Ocean*.

**BY SUN.**—Before sunset. Georgia.

**BY.**—For "of," *e.g.*, "a person *by* the name of." A vulgarism.





**ABALLADA.**—A caravan, or company of horses or mules carrying merchandize. The word, which is pure Spanish, is, in Texas, contracted into **CABALLARD**

(pronounced *cavayard*).

**CABBAGE, To.**—To appropriate surreptitiously. In England, *to cabbage* is confined to tailor's slang, and means the appropriation of portions of the cloth confided to workmen for the purpose of making garments. Among American thieves, however, the word is used in a much more extended sense, and is applied to theft of any kind.

—**CABBAGE-TREE** or **CABBAGE-PALM** (*Palma altissima*).—A well-known tree of the palm species, found in Florida and throughout the West Indies. The young shoots are edible, and are used either pickled or as a vegetable. The name is given to more than one variety of palm, but only to those that bear an esculent shoot. From the pith of the *Palma altissima*, sago is manufactured, and the long straight stems of this variety are used as water-pipes.

**CABEROS** or **CABRESTO.**—A kind of lasso made of hair. Like the **LARIAT** (which is made of raw hide) and the lasso, the *caberos* is formed with a running noose, and is used on ranches and Western

plains for catching horses and cattle. The plainsmen and cowboys show marvellous dexterity in its manipulation. While riding full speed an animal in a herd will be singled out, and the *caberos* thrown with such precision that the neck, legs, or other portions of the body will be entangled in the noose and the animal captured. From the Spanish *cabestro*, a halter. *Caberos* are also employed for fastening the animals, when caught, to stakes or pegs in the ground.

**CABLE.**—(1) A message by Atlantic or other sea *cables*; **TO CABLE** is the act of sending such messages. Of comparatively modern American coinage, *to cable* like "to wire" is, in spite of purist opposition, rapidly passing into general commercial use, and seems likely to obtain a permanent footing in the language. Though not yet admitted to a place in the dictionaries, it is frequently used by even the best journalistic authorities. The message itself is also called a **CABLEGRAM**. Used both as a noun and verb.—(2) A popular abbreviation for *cable-tramway*; thus, in an advertisement appearing in the *St. Louis Globe Democrat*, it is stated that one of the attractions of certain apartments to let was that they were "convenient to both *cables*."

**CABOODLE.**—**THE WHOLE CABOODLE.**—A pleonastic expression for "the

whole." Thought to be an enlarged form of BOODLE which is sometimes used in the same sense, and which is derived from the old English "bottel" a bundle (Fr. *botel*, *boteau*, Ger. *beutel*). *Caboodle* is general throughout the States, and has now almost completely supplanted BOODLE (*q.v.*), which is more usually applied in a totally different sense.

Ye've got ter have faith in Goddle-mighty then, sure, a-swingin' up an' down them mount'n-sides, dark nights or bright, when a rock on the track f'om a landslide 'u'd fling the whole CABOODLE down the mount'n an inter kingdom came afo' you'd know it.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

**CABOOSE OR CABOOSE-CAR.**—On American railways the *caboose-car* is equivalent to the guards' van attached to goods trains in England. This, like much of the American terminology connected with various modes of land travel, has been borrowed from sea life; in this instance from a ship's *caboose* or galley. Sometimes spelt "camboose" (Dutch *kombuis*). Also CAB.

A CABOOSE drawn by two engines jumped the track at Great Barrington, Vt., and fifteen men were injured.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*, 1888.

A north-bound freight train on the Philadelphia and Reading Railway while moving slowly near here this morning was overtaken by another freight, the engine of which plowed through the CABOOSE and two cars of the first train.—*New York Weekly Times*, 1888.

**CABREE** (*Antilocapra americana*).—A French-Canadian name for the PRONG HORN (*q.v.*), the latter name from a prong which juts out from each horn. Its flesh is highly esteemed as food.

**CACAO** (*Theobroma cacao*).—The cocoa of commerce.

**CACHE** (French).—Sometimes corrupted into CASH. Used both as a noun and verb. A *cache*, among traders and hunters, is a cavity hollowed in the ground for the purpose of receiving provisions, stores, etc., required for future use, or which it is desirable to conceal. —To *CACHE* describes the action of secreting in this manner; but in many cases a much wider meaning is given to the word, which then is synonymous with hiding, irrespective of the manner in which it is done. It is derived from the French *cache*, to hide, and was the name given by the early French settlers to their secret depositories. The latter, however, were in use long prior to the advent of white men.

In a *CACHE* among the rocks we found the provisions and the cooking utensils, and then, all fatigued as I was, I sat down on a boulder and superintended, while Johnny gathered wood and cooked supper.—*Mark Twain's Roughing It*.

He stopped in some alarm, and his thoughts first naturally reverted to the whiskey, which he had prudently cached. . . . Whether Mr. Oakhurst had *CACHED* his cards with the whiskey I cannot say.—*Bret Harte's Outcasts of Poker Flat*, p. 26.

**CACHUNK! KERCHUNK! CASHUNK!**—

This word belongs to a class of exclamations which are intended to convey an imitation of the sound of a body falling heavily, that is, with a noise or thump. No special meaning attaches to them, and they seem to be equally uncertain as regards orthography, being met with in various guises, such as KESHONK, and KESHWASH in New England, and KERCHUG, KEWOSH and CASHWASH in the West. *Cashunk* extends over the entire Union, but the whole class of these fanciful onomatopoeic words are much affected in the South and West; they are mainly of recent origin, though two of the class KESWOLLOP and KEWHOLLUX, which



are rare in the States, are not unfamiliar to English ears.

**CACIQUE.**—A West Indian term, which, through the Spanish, is derived from the *cazie* of Hayti.—The title of a chief or head man among the aboriginal Indians of the West India Islands. Now very indiscriminately applied; genuine Indian chiefs, and even the head councilman of third and fourth rate towns, as well as any conceited and officious Jack-in-office, is dubbed with this once honorable title.

**CACK.**—In Massachusetts, the name of a child's shoe.

**CACOMITE.**—The bulbous root of a flour-producing species of *Tigridia*, common in Mexico.

**CAD.**—A railway guard or conductor. In English slang, omnibus conductors are generically called *cads*, but its application to railway officials is peculiarly American. Authorities differ concerning the origin and application of this word, some regarding it as a contraction of "cadger"; whilst others profess to trace it to the Scotch "cadie," an errand boy; or to the slang University sense of the word—a non-member (Latin *cadaver*, a dead body).

**CADE.**—A calf, a pet.

**CADY** (Cant).—A hat.

**CÆSARISM.**—Those are accused of *Cæsarism*, i.e., Imperialism, who, in American politics, favor the re-election, to the presidency for a third term, of one who has already held the office twice.

**CAHOOT** (French *cohorte*).—Though of foreign extraction this phrase has a more immediate origin in the old English word "cahoot" which, in a slang sense, is used in the South and West for companionship or "keeping company," whether legitimately or otherwise. As is usual with this class of words, the primary meaning is modified among various classes of the community. Men who live in the same house, those in partnership, or who act in concert, are said to be in *cahoots*; just as, politically, the same term is sometimes synonymous with a species of jobbery—in other words "in *cahoots*" then signifies an unholy alliance.

Seibert and Noland are in *CAHOOTS*. Noland is now deputy state treasurer, and is a candidate for the chief place. From present appearances his ambition will be gratified. He is worthy of promotion, entirely competent to discharge the duties of treasurer, and has his fences built to corral his anticipations. Seibert's friends will support Noland, and Noland's friends will support Seibert. But they are not leaning on each other. Seibert has his backbone against that of some candidate for every State office. This is politics.—*Washington Daily Post*, 1888.

—Also to *CAHOOT*.

**CAIN.**—To RAISE CAIN.—To proceed to extreme measures; to be dangerously quarrelsome; to make a disturbance. Of Western origin this expression was primarily applied to men who, drunk and quarrelsome, or who simply heated with passion, would have shown no hesitation in shooting or stabbing those who chanced to oppose them. While still retaining this meaning, its more general signification is that of being merely disputatious or quarrelsome without any special homicidal mania. A variant is TO RAISE HATE.

**ÇA IRA!**—This famous refrain from *Le Carillon National* of the French

Revolution of 1790, was adopted as a rallying cry by the Federalists. It was likewise a favorite saying of Dr. Franklin in connection with the American War of Independence. It means, "it will speed," or "it will do."

**CAJEN.**—A corruption of **ACADIAN** (*q.v.*), a native of Nova Scotia.

**CAKE.**—**TO TAKE THE CAKE.**—**To rank the highest ; to be the best of a kind. The origin of the phrase is said to be as follows :—**

In certain sections of the country, **CAKE WALKS** are in vogue among the colored people. It is a walking contest, not in the matter of speed, but in style and elegance. The young bucks get themselves up in the most elaborate clothing, correct to a stitch, and walk from one end of the hall to the other, under the admiring gaze of dusky beauties, and the critical eye of the judges. The marking is done on a scale of numbers, and when the low down contestants have quitted the field, the ties are walked off. Then comes the real walking, elaborate and finished in every detail. The prize is a **CAKE** and the successful competitor **TAKES** it.

Between you 'n me, red stockings ain't becomin' to all—ahem—limbs, 'n for cool check 'n dash, I back some o' em against any saleslady 't makes a livin' by it, the way 't some o' those girls 'd pin on a *boutonniere* **TOOK THE CAKE.**—*San Francisco News Letter.*

**CAKES.**—**HURRY UP THE CAKES!**—**Look sharp! be quick! Buck-wheat and other hot cakes form a staple dish at many American tables, and the phrase is one often heard in this connection. It has now become pure slang—an injunction to expeditious movement.**

**CAL.**—An abbreviation for California, used in writing and printing.

**CALABASH.**—(1) A drinking utensil; the shell of the fruit of the *Cucurbita lagenaria*, a vine of the gourd species, is generally used for this

purpose. From the Spanish *calabaza*, a gourd.—(2) The head; only employed jeeringly to an empty-headed, weak-minded individual.

**CALABOOSE.**—The common gaol or prison. This word comes into popular use from the Spanish *calabozo* through the French *calabouse*.—**To CALABOOSE.**—**To imprison.**

Charley Read struck an old tramp in the **CALABOOSE** the other day who looked disgusted at his headquarters and remarked, 'Well I've been in every jail from Portland to Santa Ana, but this is d—n snide of a **CALABOOSE** I ever struck yet.'—*Santa Ana Blade*, 1888.

**CALASH.**—1. An open chaise with a hood. Canada.—2. A covered wire hood used by ladies to protect their head-dress.

**CALCULATE, To.**—**To think; expect; believe; intend; indeed, almost any sense save the legitimate meaning of the word. It belongs to the same class of colloquialisms as GUESS and RECKON; yet, although often heard to fall from the lips of all grades of society in America, the guessin', reckonin', spectin', and calculatin' American of the English stage is as much a myth as the man in the moon. Still, the more frequent use of these words by our cousins across the water, gives them the stamp of Americanisms. Calculate is sometimes, especially in New England, corrupted into cal'late.**

The Sarjunt he thout Hosea hedn't gut his i teeth cut cos he looked a kindo's though he'd jest come down, so he **CAL'LATED** to hook him in, but Hosy woodn't take none o' his sarse.—*Biglow Papers.*

**CALF-KILL** (*Kalmia augustiflora*).—A beautiful flowering shrub of the laurel species, the popular name of

which is founded on the erroneous supposition that its leaves, if eaten by cattle, prove fatal. The same plant is, in the South, called *ivy*; it is not, however, a member of that family.

**CALFSKIN FIDDLE** (Cant).—A drum.

**CALIBOGUS**.—A very old name for a mixture of rum and spruce beer, being quoted by Grose in 1792 as "an American beverage." The last two syllables of the word are thought to be derived from the French *bagasse*, the refuse of the sugar cane. This view would seem to be supported by the fact that rum is itself a product of the sugar cane.

**CALICO**.—There is a slight variation in English and American usage as regards the application of this term to cotton goods. As is well known, the term was originally used to distinguish cotton goods from India (from Calicut on the Malabar coast), but, in England, all white and unprinted cotton goods are now called *calicoes*. In the States, on the contrary, printed cotton goods alone would be understood by the term. A familiar illustration of this will be called to mind in the popular *CALICO-BALLS*, now as well known here as across the water, whence they were introduced in the first instance. The term *calico*, so applied, bears the more extended meaning peculiar to the States, the dresses, though all of cotton materials, being mainly of the printed and fancy kinds.

Fresh *CALICO* dresses, in which the dominant tint was either a bright pink or a positive blue, were flaunted with more pride than a princess feels in her lace and pearls.  
—*Century Magazine*, 1888.

**CALIFORNIA WIDOW**.—A married woman whose husband is away from her

for any extended period; a "grass widow" in the least offensive sense of that term. The expression dates from the period of the Californian gold fever, when so many men went West, leaving their wives and families behind them.

**CALL**.—An invitation; a requisition; also fitness for a vocation. In the phraseology of Dissenters a *call* to any given office or pastorate is often looked upon as equivalent to a divine command, the allusion being to such *calls* as those of Abraham, Samuel, etc. However unquestionable may be the sincerity of belief in many cases, in others it cannot be denied that the acuteness of the sense of hearing on the occasion of such *calls* is more regulated by the worldly inducements offered than by other considerations. In such cases the cant formula would be a "providential *call*." The word has now passed from church phraseology into general use. Also to **CALL**.

It is quite likely that the First Baptist Church in Pierrepont Street will **CALL** a pastor within the next two months. Several names are just now under consideration.—*Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, 1888.

The morning papers will publish a **CALL**, signed by a number of the leading citizens, for a mass meeting of the citizens and business men to consider matters relating to the present railroad freight troubles.—*Denver Republican*, 1888.

Perhaps no one has any right to expect to make a success of authorship unless he has a **CALL**—by which, I infer, those who use the word mean a capacity to produce work that, if not immortal, is imbued with the essence of a fresh-voiced and interesting personality.  
—*The Critic*, April 14, 1888.

—**CALLS FOR DOMESTIC ANIMALS.**

—These, in America, differ considerably from those used in England. Among the more important variations may be mentioned the following:—"gee" directs the animals away from the driver, hence to the right; but in England the



same term has the opposite effect, because the driver walks on the right-hand side of his team. In Virginia, mule drivers "gee" the animals with the cry "hey-yee-ee-a." To direct animals to the left, another series of terms is used. In calling cattle in the field, the following cries are used in the localities given:—"boss, boss," "sake, sake" (Connecticut); "coo, coo" (Virginia); "sook, sook," also "sookey" (Maryland); "sookow" (Alabama); and for calling horses, "kope, kope" (Maryland and Alabama); for calling sheep, "konanny" (Maryland); for calling hogs, "chee-oo-oo."

**CALLITHUMP, To.**—To caterwaul; to produce discordant "musical" sounds by means of instruments, either incongruous in themselves or in conjunction—such as tin kettles, bells, rattles, etc. A facetious word, founded upon "Calliope," one of the nine muses, and "to thump."—**CALLITHUMPIANS.**—A name assumed at various times by bands of rowdies, especially in Baltimore. In days gone by the *callithumpians*, or the *callithumpian band* were part and parcel of a noisy festival on New Year's Eve, when parties of men and women perambulated the streets, making the night hideous with discordant sounds. A *callithumpian band* is also frequently improvised on the occasion of an unpopular wedding, much in the same fashion as, in England, a kettle or tin-pot band is formed to mark popular disapproval. Thus the *Cincinnati Weekly Gazette*, in "Answers to Correspondents," jokingly states that the probable meaning of parties being quietly married nowadays is that the marriage festivities are not celebrated by a *callithumpian band*.

**CALLOUSED.**—Hardened; a state of callosity. The skin is *calloused* by constant pressure.

Many a young man, with hands CALLOUSED by ax-helve and plow-handle, rode to-day in his Sunday best with a blooming girl by his side, or behind him, and with the gay heart of a troubadour in his breast.—*Century Magazine*, 1887.

**CALUMET.**—To SMOKE THE CALUMET OF PEACE.—Among the aboriginal Indians, the pipe, or *calumet*, played an important part in the councils of the nation or tribe. These *calumets* were of two kinds—one being produced and used when treaties were made, or strangers received in friendly confabulation; the other, of different shape, when war was to be declared. The symbol took the popular fancy and has passed into general use; therefore, *to smoke the calumet or pipe of peace* is equivalent to a profession of friendship. The reverse of the symbol—the pipe of war—is rarely heard. The word itself was introduced by the old French-Canadian colonists.

**CAMAS PRAIRIE. CAMAS ROOT.**—See KAMAS ROOT.

**CAMFIRE.**—A corruption, both as regards writing and pronunciation, of "camphor."

**CAMP.**—In Western life, whenever a halt on a journey is called, a *camp* is formed; the same term is applied even though the traveller is alone.

. . . The cowmen along the Little Missouri have united in establishing a row of CAMPS to the east of the river, along the line where the broken ground meets the prairie. The CAMPS are usually for two men each, and some fifteen or twenty miles apart; then, in the morning, its two men start out in opposite ways, each riding till he meets his neighbor of the next CAMP nearest on that side, when he returns. The CAMP itself is sometimes merely a tent pitched in

a sheltered coulée, but ought to be either made of logs or else a dug-out in the ground.—*Ranch Life in the Far West.*

—A HALF-FACED CAMP is the CORRAL (*q.v.*) of the South-west—a camp so formed that one side is open for the free passage of the beasts of burden comprised in the train.

You catch your trout within sight of the CAMP, and they are brought to your table baked in cream, broiled, fried in meal or in a chowder, till you once for all and at last have fairly had your fill of the most toothsome and best of fish.—*New York Herald*, July 29, 1888.

—To CAMP DOWN.—To form a camp.

They travelled all night, and when day broke took to the bush, CAMPED DOWN a smart piece off the trail, stayed till about noon, caught up their fresh horses, took a bee-line through the timber, and, when night came, pushed for the trail again.—*N. Y. Spirit of the Times*, *Frontier Tale*.

—CAMP-MEETING.—A gathering which partakes largely of the character of a protracted picnic, religious exercises being quaintly mixed up with fun and frolic of all kinds. In the early days the practice of holding *camp-meetings* was mainly confined to the Methodists, but nowadays other denominations and associations also have their *camp-meetings*. Among the Mormons they are called WOOD-MEETINGS. As the name implies, those frequenting these gatherings, which often last for weeks together, *camp out* in tents, booths, and other improvised and temporary habitations. There are well-known holiday resorts in the States which are very popular for *camp-meeting* purposes, and some of these gatherings are largely attended, occasionally by thousands of people, the railway companies offering special transit inducements. In many respects they are neither more nor less than monster picnics; two, three, or

more public meetings are held during the day, the rest of the time being devoted to rambling, bathing, excursions, games, and other outdoor amusements. Temporary wooden huts are sometimes erected by the proprietors of the grounds, and these are let out by the day or week as occasion needs. Nor are the usual conveniences of civilization wanting; so perfectly organised are these meetings that telegraph and post offices are established on the spot, and, at times, even a daily newspaper is published in which is detailed the reports of the meetings, and the doings of the campers. When the assembly breaks up, huts, tents, offices, platforms, newspaper, etc., disappear, and the grove, wood, or lake resumes its normal appearance.

In the early days of August there came a time of comparative leisure. The summer harvests were over, and the fields of tall corn had been laid by after the last plowing. Then Illinois had a breathing spell . . . and in this time of relaxation came the season of Baptist Associations and Methodist CAMP-MEETINGS and two-days' basket meetings—jolly religious picnics, where you could attend to your salvation and eat 'roas'in' ears' with old friends in the thronged recesses of the forests, among a people who were perhaps as gregarious as any the world has ever produced. Children looked forward to this gypsying with eagerness, and adults gave themselves over to it with the abandon of children. What night-scenes there were! Within the oval of tents at a CAMP-MEETING two great platforms were raised on posts six or eight feet high and covered with earth; on these were built great blazing bonfires, illuminating all the space inclosed by the tents and occupied by the enthusiastic assembly, which, as one great chorus, made the wide forest vocal with a tide of joyous or pathetic song.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

CAMPAIGN.—A word of somewhat grandiloquent political import, being employed to signify a period of electoral contest, and applied alike to a presidential election or to the canvass of the merest petty

official—a usage described by James Grant White in *Words and their Meanings*, as "bloated army-bumming bombast." — **TO CAMPAIGN.**—To proceed upon a campaign; to exploit.

The new owner sold the steed for 800 dollars to James Gray of Wellesly, the well-known real estate dealer, who, after CAMPAIGNING him on the track for a couple of years, with good success, sold him to Bonner for 16,000 dollars.—*Boston Weekly Globe*, March 28, 1888.

**CAMPBELLITE.**—A member of the sect founded by a Dr. Alexander Campbell, in the South.

**CAMPHENE.**—A well-known oil used for lighting purposes. It is the pure oil of turpentine, and its component parts are eight of hydrogen and ten of carbon.

**CAN (Cant).**—A dollar piece.

**CAN, TO, CANNED, CANNING.**—The process of preserving fresh fruit, vegetables, fish, and other food products in air-tight tin vessels is called *canning*. The industry has, since its introduction, increased year by year until it has now assumed enormous dimensions. *Canned* goods, as they are called, are familiar to, and very popular with the English public, amongst whom they are more generally known as "tinned" goods. It is said that upwards of 50,000 tons of lobster alone are put into tins annually for export.

A CANNING factory has been in operation at Lexington about five years. Those who put out ten acres of corn and tomatoes make from 800 dollars to 1,000 dollars a year. Small farmers there consider that there is more money in raising vegetables for the CANNING factory than in any other crop, at less expense.—*Rich Hill Review*, 1888.

—**CAN-OPENER.**—A bladed instrument adapted for opening tinned goods. — **CANNERY.**—An establishment where *canning* or packing in tin vessels is carried on.

A petition has been circulated and freely signed to-day requesting the Board of Education to extend the vacation from July 30th to August 26th, to allow the school children to assist in the CANNERY at the most important time. Otherwise large quantities of peaches and pears must go to waste, with great loss to fruit raisers and the CANNERY.—*San Francisco Weekly Chronicle*, July 26, 1888.

**CANACK, CANUCK, KANUCK, K'NUCK.**

—Familiar and colloquial slang appellations for a native of Canada, the most frequently used being *K'nuck*. The origin of the term is a little obscure, and, moreover, it seems to be limited in its application within the Canadian frontier. There a *Canuck* is understood to be a Canadian of French descent, just as, within the limits of the Union, only New Englanders are termed Yankees, whereas elsewhere that appellation is given indiscriminately to natives of all the States. It is supposed that *Canuck* is a corruption of Connaught, the name given by French-Canadians to the Irish. If this be so, and in view of the large influx of natives of the Emerald Isle to Canada, the suggestion is by no means improbable; it would follow that, by a process of inversion, a nickname given by one section of a nation to another has, in course of time, been applied to the nation as a whole.

**CAÑADA** (pronounced Canyada).—A Spanish diminutive of *cañon*. A small cañon; that is, a narrow passage or gorge through mountains.

**CANADA BALSAM** (*Abies balsamea*).—A fir producing the well-known balsam of commerce, which is extracted from blisters under the bark. The tree is of a spindly habit, and delights in the cold damp woods and swamps of New England, Pennsylvania, and other



States further north. Also called BALSAM FIR (*q.v.*).

**CANADA NETTLE** (*Urtica canadensis*).—Also called ALBANY HEMP (*q.v.*).

**CANADA RICE** (*Zizania aquatica*).—Also WILD RICE and WATER OATS. This plant abounds in the Northern States and Canada, and flourishes in deep pools and sluggish streams.

**CANADA THISTLE** (*Cirsium [carduus] arvense*).—Introduced into Canada from France, where it is very common, as also in England; this weed has spread itself over the whole of North America.

Some portions of the earth are worth their weight in gold, while others are not fit to raise CANADA THISTLES on."—*Texas Siftings*, June 30, 1888.

**CANARY GRASS** (*Phalaris intermedia*).—Also known as RED CANARY GRASS, STEWART'S CANARY GRASS, GILBERT'S RELIEF GRASS, and CALIFORNIAN TIMOTHY. It is a native of the Southern and some of the Western States, and is highly recommended as a winter and spring grass for the South, wherever a fair degree of moisture exists.

**CANCER ROOT**.—One of the *Orobanchæ* of Linnæus. A yellowish plant which supplies a pretended remedy for cancer, prepared in the form of a powder—hence the popular name. The plant is common throughout the States.

**CANDIDATE, To**.—To seek or be proposed for office, etc. A verb formed much in the same way as "to rail," *i.e.*, to travel by railway.

When one considers the many different tastes and preferences to be found in a large modern congregation, and remembers that these tastes have reference so much more largely than in former years to external and non-essential matters, it will be readily

apprehended by those outside the ministry that the business of CANDIDATING is admirably adapted to strike terror to the heart of a minister of ordinarily sensitive nerves.—*Century Magazine*, October, 1888.

—CANDIDACY.—A vulgarism for candidature.

**CANDLE LIGHTING**.—An old time phrase which still lingers in New England, and by which is meant the time of the evening when artificial light is necessary. The expression sounds quaint enough nowadays; but, of course, at one time it was literally correct. Sometimes varied by *early candle lighting*.

They were late, for the meeting was alus appointed for EARLY CANDLE LIGHTING.—*American Humorist*, August, 1888.

**CANDY**.—A name given to sweetmeats of all kinds.

**CANE BRAKE**.—The name given in Louisiana and South Carolina to fields of sugar cane.

They set out for an extensive CANE BRAKE about half a mile distant, where they remained concealed while Seth returned on foot to reconnoitre.—*New York Mercury*, 1888.

In Carolina such thickets are also called CANE MEADOWS, while in the West Indies the distinctive name is CANE PIECES.—CANE TRASH.—The leaves of the sugar-cane when cut and stripped for grinding. The trash is left on the field and serves as manure for the soil.—CANEY.—Pertaining to the sugar-cane. A word of Western fabrication, where it is applied, for example, to land upon which canes have grown or are growing.

**CAN-HOOK, CANT-HOOK**.—The hook of a lever with which timber, merchandise, and heavy casks are moved or raised. Obviously from "to cant," to move, or to incline to one side. This invention is American in name and design.

**CANK** (Cant).—HE IS CANK, *i.e.*, dumb.

**CANKER RASH**.—A familiar term for scarlatina.

**CANOE**.—The native boat of the Indian, made of bark, skins, or of the trunk of a tree which has been hollowed out. In the last named case they are called *DUG-OUTS* (*q.v.*), but the manner of building varies according to the exigencies of locality and material. Sometimes, instead of the *canoe* being thus hollowed out or constructed of skins or bark pieced together, and fastened to a framework, the bark itself is stripped bodily from the trunk in one piece, being then moulded into shape; these are the *BARK CANOES* or *WOOD-SKINS* (*q.v.*) of the South as well as of the North American Indians. Among the former the tree most used for this purpose is the purple-heart (*Copai-fera pubiflora*), and the locust tree or *simiri* (*Hymenaea courbaril*). The *CANOE* or *PAPER BIRCH* (*Betula papyracea*) mainly serves the redskin of the Northern portion of the continent, and these bark *canoes* are consequently sometimes called *BIRCHES* by hunters. The bark of the paper birch, which is thick, glossy, and pliant, also serves the Indians in the manufacture of bead and straw-trimmed baskets, boxes, and other small curios. The word *canoe* is of Indian origin, *canaoa* being the Carib word for a small boat of this description, which, in its present form, *canoe*, has come down through the French *canot*.—To **PADDLE ONE'S OWN CANOE**.—In the sense of to exhibit skill and energy; to succeed unaided; a slang phrase now universal. Extremely careful and clever manipulation is required in the management of canoes, especially in shooting rapids; otherwise the surging body of water

might swamp the boat, or sunken rocks strike and seriously damage it. Hence the adoption of such an expression to signify skill, close attention, and energy.

**CAÑON** (pronounced Canyon) **CANYON**, **CANON**.—A narrow precipitous channel between mountains, sometimes with, and sometimes without a river running through it. In Colorado there is a river of the same name which, with its tributaries, has cut for itself passages through the mountains. One of these cañons is upwards of 217 miles long; the sides are in many places vertical, and from 2,000 to 3,500 feet high. Spanish, a tunnel.

Echo **CANYON** is twenty miles long. It was like a long, smooth, narrow street, with a gradual descending grade, and shut in by enormous perpendicular walls of coarse conglomerate, four hundred feet high in many places, and turreted like mediæval castles.—*Mark Twain's Roughing It*.

**CANT, To**.—This verb occupies a colloquial position in the States denied to it in England, taking very much the place of "to turn over." For example, a person restless in bed *cants* over when shifting the position of the body; a log of wood instead of being rolled over is *canted* over—these and similar examples will serve to show how thoroughly and familiarly colloquial is this word, far beyond the general custom in England, where the sense is rather that of unequal balancing, or a leaning to one side.

**CANTANKERATE, To**.—To make or become cross-grained, ill-humored; to produce strife. Obviously from "cantankerous" which, curiously enough, was once regarded as purely American, but which now has been traced back to the Anglo-Norman *conteh*.

You may [by contentious writing] happyfy your inimies, [and] CANTANKERATE your opponents.—*Sam Slick's Clockmaker*.

—CANTANKERSOME.—From cantankerous.

Plato Frisk, a jumpin' Quaker, a terrible cross-grained CANTANKERSOME critter.—*Sam Slick's Clockmaker*.

**CANTALOUPE** (French).—Known elsewhere as the MUSK-MELON.

In selecting CANTALOPES do not aim to secure large ones for family use. The best flavoured and sweetest varieties are the small kinds, and they are also the earliest. Water-melons, however, should be large, as the larger the melon the less waste, while they are also fully equal in quality to the smaller kinds.—*Missouri Republican*, March 2, 1888.

The flour-barrel has almost as many ages as man. First there is the flour age, bright, new, clean and sweet; second, there is the potato age, a little grimy and dingy; then mayhaps, the apple, CANTALOUPE or horse-feed age, and then the last and saddest of all—the seventh age—is the ash-barrel or garbage period.—*Cincinnati Enquirer*, 1888.

**CANT-HOOK**.—See CAN-HOOK.

**CANTICO, CANTICA, CANTICOY**.—A merry-making or social gathering; the term was derived by the early settlers from the Algonkin Indians, amongst whom it signified an act of worship in which dancing played a prominent part.

**CANUCK**.—See CANACK.

**CANVAS BACK**.—A wild duck which Procter thinks is somewhat overpraised in America.

**CANVASS, TO**.—To canvass in England, when used politically, differs in its meaning from that current in America, where it is used to signify the official counting of votes after an election; whereas in the Mother

Country it simply refers to the solicitation or beating up of voters prior to that event.

**CAP, TO**.—(Cant).—To stand by a friend; to take part in any undertaking; to lend a hand.

**CAPE COD TURKEY**.—The cod fish. A slang term which is used interchangeably with MARBLE-HEAD TURKEY. Massachusetts.

**CAPE MAY GOODY**.—The Lafayette fish. A popular name on the Jersey coast where Cape May is situated.

**CAPER-JUICE**.—A slang term for whiskey.

Say, fellers, let's take a leetle mo' uv the CAPER JUICE. [They drink again. Sam and the girl exchange affectionate glances.] —*Portland Transcript*, February 29, 1888.

**CAPERS**.—TO CUT CAPERS.—To indulge in frolicsome mirth.—See CUT.

**CAPPER** (Cant).—A confederate; at cards one who, in order to encourage a genuine player, makes false bids with the object of deceiving. —(2) (Trade).—In auctioneer's slang, a *capper* is a man or woman who acts as a dummy bidder, the object being either to start the bidding upon, or to enhance the price of articles put up for sale. Some of the less reputable firms regularly employ men and women for these purposes.

**CAP SHEAF**.—THAT'S THE CAP SHEAF.—An idiom (drawn from the well-known capping sheaf of straw which used to decorate the top of a stack) signifying pre-eminence and superiority. Its figurative use is mainly confined to the States; where, however, it is one of the most familiar figures of speech to denote quantity or quality by comparison with a similar object.



**CAPTAIN.**—The conductor or guard of a train. This official, on whom devolves the chief responsibility for the safety and general management of a train, is, in America, often addressed as *captain*—an analogy being drawn from the phraseology of rail and water traffic. In America the terminology of the latter has been almost universally adopted to describe many phases of the former.

**CAPTAIN'S BEAT.**—A Southern military expression, denoting the residential limits of a company. The same boundaries are used for voting purposes.

**CAPTION.**—An American journalist rarely gives a "heading," or "title" to his literary efforts; he prefers to place them on a quasi-legal footing, and, therefore, prefaces them with a *caption* instead. The term is applied indifferently to the heading of a chapter, section, or page, even the cross-titles with which transatlantic editors are so fond of breaking up their articles being thus designated.

The projected edifice I am about to speak of is, therefore, properly named in my CAPTION as a new Beecher Church.—*Mark Twain's Sketches II.*, 25.

The *captions* of most American newspapers are marvels of imaginative effort. The following are a few taken hap-hazard from a single issue of the *New York Mail and Express*, of May 4, 1887:—"Pretty Lillian Talks Pertly: She appears Before a Referee and Unblushingly Tells Him that Her Diamonds are all Paste"; "Jersey News Nuggets"; "Round about town"; "Saved by a woman with a sun-bonnet"; "Found on Staten Island"; "News in small packages"; "Delicacies in Market"; "In a hurry to bury his wife"; "The

woman who died in the car"; "He would get drunk, so he died."

**CAR.**—A railway coach. These vehicles are almost universally built upon the Pullman system, and the long through trains, on which it is possible in going from East to West to spend a week or more, comprise really palatial dining, smoking, sleeping, and drawing-room, besides mail, baggage and other specially denominated *cars*; in short these trains are more like first-class hotels running on wheels than anything else. A similar difference of phraseology is noticeable in the manner in which an Englishman and an American speak of their intention to adopt this method of travelling. The former "goes by train" or "travels by rail"; the latter "goes by" or "takes the cars." It is singular, however, that although a divergence exists in this respect, the practice as regards tramway *cars* is identical in both countries.

It is questionable whether there is a better road in the world than the Burlington, Quincy, and Missouri Railroad with its dining *CARS*, smoking *CARS*, and conversation *CARS*.—*New York Herald*, 1888.

—**CAR-BRAKE.**—The ordinary brake used to diminish speed.

**CAR-HOUSE.**—A covered shed for protecting railway carriages from the weather when not in use.

**CARAMEL, To.**—In sugar manufacture in Louisiana, to "burn" the cane juice by a careless application of heat.

He seeks to keep the temperature down to 130°. If it is too high some of the sucrose will 'invert' or CARAMEL into glucose, and the proportion of sugar will be lessened.—*Century Magazine*, 1887.

**CARAVAN.**—The *caravans* of the New World differed little in point of composition from those of the Old.

Those about to take a journey in the same direction placed themselves for mutual safety under the direction of an experienced guide, who also undertook the general management of affairs whilst the association continued. In the early days it was only by means of *caravans* that communication was maintained between the old settlements and the new colonies which were continually being planted farther and farther afield. Now, however, the iron horse has supplanted the pack mule and the PRAIRIE SCHOONER (*q.v.*), and it is only in the South-west and some portions of the Rockies that this institution now survives. In New Mexico it is also called by its Spanish name CONDUCTA (*q.v.*). *Caravan* has come down from the Persian *karwan*, through the French *caravane*, having in its peregrinations nearly made the circuit of the globe.

**CARBONADO, To.**—A Southern term, of Spanish descent, signifying to boil or to cook over a coal fire.

**CARCAJOU** (*Meles labradorica*).—The American badger. Its scientific name is a misnomer since it is not found in Labrador.

**CARDINAL** (Cant).—A lobster; from its color when cooked.—**CARDINAL HASH**.—A lobster salad.

**CARDS**.—**TO GIVE ONE CARDS**.—A slang expression borrowed from the gaming table, signifying to give an advantage. The English equivalent "to give points" is derived from the billiard saloon.

You know that Artie is more or less of a masher, and can turn off a hundred yards in pretty quick time, but he found a Chinaman out in Frisco who could give him CARDS and spades and beat him out.—*Grip* (Toronto), May, 1888.

—**THAT'S A SURE CARD** sounds uncommonly like modern slang, but as Lowell has pointed out it is to be found in the old interlude of "Thursytes" (1537). The expression signifies a certainty.

**CARE**.—**I DON'T CARE IF I DO**.—A slang street phrase meaning nothing in particular, but which, like **YOU BET**, **HOW IS THAT FOR HIGH**, was, for a time, tacked on to almost every assertion in a most reckless fashion.

Volapuk will never be popular in Kentucky. It contains no sentence to take the place of that classic phrase, **I DON'T CARE IF I DO**.—*New York Tribune*, 1888.

**CAREER**.—**TO MAKE A CAREER**.—To become famous.

Minnie Palmer has made the CAREER rapidly. She is now both rich and famous, and not a line of her early beauty has been obliterated.—*Detroit Free Press*, 1888.

**CARF**.—A "blaze" or mark made on a tree destined to be felled.

**CARIBOU** (*Rangifer caribou*).—The American reindeer, of which there are supposed to be two varieties, the barren ground and the woodland *caribou*, though some authorities regard them as the same animal.

**CARLIGUES, CURLYCUES**.—A fancifully-formed word, from "curley" and "queue," and used to designate boyish tricks and capers, and fantastic ornamentation, whether of a person or thing.—**TO CUT CURLYCUES**.—To cut capers.

**CAROLINA ALLSPICE**.—See ALLSPICE. —**CAROLINA PINK** (*Spigelia marilandica*).—The PINK ROOT of Maryland which, further South, is popularly known as the *Carolina pink*. This plant is much esteemed,

medicinally as a purgative and vermifuge. It also bears beautiful flowers.—CAROLINA POTATO (*Convolvulus batata*).—The sweet potato of the tropical portions of America.

**CAROM.**—The “cannon” of billiards, the latter being a mere corruption. Hoyle describes it as the act of hitting two balls at once with the ball struck by the cue.

The balls had a fashion of always stopping under the cushions, and we accomplished very little in the way of CAROMS.—*Mark Twain's Innocents Abroad*.

Cushion CAROMS is the only game that they could come near us on, and the proposition is that we play 1,000 points, 500 a night.—*Missouri Republican*, February 16, 1888.

**CARPET-BAGGER.**—After the Civil War, numbers of Northerners went South, some with honest intent, others with the hope of profit from irregular means. They were for the most part looked upon with suspicion by Southerners, and as they were generally Republican in politics and affiliated with the freedmen at the polls, a *carpet bagger* came to have, and still retains a political significance. It was unjustly applied in an opprobrious sense to many well-meaning men, but at the same time it admirably fitted the great horde of corrupt adventurers who at that time infested the South. Originally, however, a *carpet-bagger* was a “wild-cat banker” in the West. A banker, that is, who had no local abiding place, and could not be found when wanted, his worldly possessions being literally comprised within a carpet bag.

The head of the ticket is one of the most vulnerable men who figured in Southern politics in the CARPET-BAG era. No man of that period left a blacker record.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*, 1888.

—CARPET SWEEPER.—An American invention for sweeping carpets. It is a kind of revolving brush and is enclosed in a case, thus preventing the flying about of the dust.—CARPET WEED (*Mollugo*).—A quick growing and compact weed which rapidly covers the ground as with a carpet.

**CARRY.**—An equivalent of the French *portage*—the space over which, to avoid rapids, canoes are carried. The term is well understood throughout the States, and is applied correctly to any strip of land between two navigable rivers or their head waters; in fact, any break in a chain of water navigation over which canoes and stores have to be carried on men's backs.—To CARRY.—In Virginia and the South, cattle are *carried* instead of led to the water. A curious inversion of this usage is quoted by Sir Richard Phillips as provincial in England. For example, in Sheffield they lead hay, corn, coals, and almost everything which elsewhere is carried or carted.—CARRY ALL.—A family coach running on four wheels. So applied in the Northern States, but, in Canada, where the term is supposed to have had its origin, a sledge is also thus named. Thought to be a corruption of the French *carriole*.—CARRY LOG.—A rough contrivance on wheels used in timber transport.—CARRY ME BACK!—A catch-phrase borrowed from an old negro song.

“Oh *carry me back* to ole Virginny,  
To ole Virginny's shore.”

It is used idiomatically as a request to be excused from accepting as true any marvelous or incredulous statement.—To CARRY STOCK.—To hold stock for a client's account. A Wall Street phrase.



**CARTMAN.**—A carter; the driver of a cart. A New York term; the "t" is not sounded.

**CASA.**—A country house; its use in this sense is general. The Spaniards, from whom it was borrowed, thus distinctively employed the word, which originally signified a house of any kind.

**CASH.**—**EQUAL TO CASH.**—Of undoubted merit. An idiom, no doubt allusive to the fact that paper currency is largely the medium of exchange.

Though I say it, that shouldn't say it, they [the U. S. Americans] fairly take the shine off creation—they are actilly **EQUAL TO CASH.**—*Sam Slick's Clockmaker.*

**CASHAW.**—The Algonkin Indian name for a pumpkin. In the West it takes the form of **KERSHAW.**

**CASSAREEP.**—A sauce made from the poisonous juice of the cassava root boiled down to the consistence of treacle. The process of boiling deprives it of its noxious qualities, and it then forms a very highly-flavored but pleasant relish. *Cassareep* is the foundation of most manufactured sauces, and for this purpose is largely exported to England.

The Indian woman who heads a household has charge of the earthenware pepper-pot, the contents of which consist of red peppers boiled with **CASSAREEP** and water into a sort of fiery soup. Into this they dip their cassava bread before eating it, and thus obtain a highly-flavored relish.—*Brown's Canoe and Camp Life.*

**CASSAVA** (*Xanthropa manihot*).—The root of this plant serves a variety of purposes. From it the tapioca and mandioca of commerce are obtained; whilst **CASSAREEP** (*q.v.*) is a product of the poisonous juices of the root. It is, however, mainly

used for making *cassava* bread, one of the chief food-staples of tropical America. The process of manufacture is, according to Brown, a recent traveller in British Guiana, rather a slow one.

The roots, after being peeled, are grated on boards into which small sharp angular pieces of stone have been inserted. The grated mass is then placed in a long cylindrical basket-work tube by which all the poisonous juice of the **CASSAVA** is got rid of, leaving a white coarse meal behind. This meal is sifted through a basket-work sieve, then spread upon a large flat stone or iron pan placed over a fire, and baked. Only half-a-minute is taken to bake a cake two feet in diameter and a quarter of an inch thick—the usual size of **CASSAVA** bread of Indian manufacture. The heat has the power of making each grain adhere to those around it, thus forming a firm and exceedingly nutritious cake. Eaten just after it is cooked—when still warm—it is palatable, but if kept to the following day, it becomes tough and almost tasteless. On the contrary, if dried for a few hours in the sun, upon the same day that it is cooked, it becomes hard and crisp, and has a sweet nutty flavor, and will keep for months.

**CASTAÑAS** (pronounced *Castanyas*).—This, the Spanish name for chestnuts, is applied, alike in Texas and the South-west, to the **JACK-FRUIT** (*Artocarpus integrifolia*) and to the edible fruit of the **SCREW PINE** (*Pandanus*).

**CASTEN.**—An old form for "cast." The old English past participle termination *en* has survived in many words until quite recently in the New England States, and such forms as "gotten," "boughten," "putten," etc., are even now not infrequently heard.

**CASTLE GARDEN.**—The well-known depôt at New York, through which all emigrants, landing at that city, pass before being distributed to various parts of the country.

Castle Garden, New York, was originally laid out as a rough fortification, at the most southern part of Manhattan Island, in 1616.

It was subsequently known as Fort Nassau; then, under the Dutch, as Fort William. It was surrendered by the Dutch to the English, and then christened Fort James. It took the name of Castle Garden soon after the breaking out of the Revolution. It was built for and used as a fortification. In 1847 it was opened as a place of amusement, and for a number of years was occupied as such. Jenny Lind made her first appearance in America there, under the management of P. T. Barnum, Sept. 11, 1850. The celebrated Julien concerts were also given there. During the summers of 1851, 1852, and 1853 several noted operatic artists appeared there under the management of Max Maretzek. It has been occupied as an emigrant landing depot since August, 1855.—*The Colonist* (Victoria B.C.), 1888.

**CASTORIA.**—A preparation of castor oil, inoffensive to the taste and smell.

**CASTOR TREE** (*Magnolia glauca*).—Also called, in the West, the BEAVER TREE, its alternative appellation being derived from the scientific name of the beaver (*Castor americanus*), which feeds upon the bark, and uses the wood of this tree in constructing its dams.

**CASWASH.**—See CACHUNK.

**CAT** or **CATFISH** (*Pimelodus*).—Perhaps the most common fish in the States, and certainly the one which enjoys the greatest number of *aliases*. The negroes, especially in the South, call it the *catty*, but its most popular name is simply *cat*. Amongst other names may be mentioned BULL-HEAD and HORNED POUT, from its thick head and long antennæ; MUD POUT, from its being found in the mud; and MINISTER, from its black color. In the large rivers they grow to an immense size.

About the first thing we done was to bait one of the big hooks with a skinned rabbit, and set it and catch a CAT-FISH that was as big as a man, being six foot two inches long, and weighed over two hundred pounds.—*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, p. 84.

[Dodge says that] In the purer streams of the plains is found a beautiful species of CAT-FISH, called in some parts the lady cat, and in others the channel cat. Its maximum weight is about three pounds. The spines on the pectoral fins are unusually developed and inflict a most painful wound. The body is long and tapering, covered at irregular intervals with small black spots, like trout; its head is narrow, and mouth very small for a CAT-FISH; it has few bones and is most delicate and delicious food. The best bait is a small piece of the white fish. . . . Unlike other CATS, it is very dilatory in its biting, nibbling a long time before taking a good hold. It is very strong and active, and, when hooked, makes almost as good a fight as a bass or trout of equal weight. It is the trout of CAT-FISH.

—To CAT.—To fish for CATFISH.

—CATFISH WITH LEGS.—The siredon, a species of lizard. A plainsman's term.—As SICK AS A CAT.—The usual English simile AS SICK AS A DOG, for excessive vomiting or qualmsiness is not often heard across the Atlantic; as *sick as a cat* replaces it.—CAT-O'-NINE-TAILS.—A kind of bullrush.

It swayed back and forwards like a stalk of rye or a CAT-O'-NINE-TAILS with a bobolink on it.—*Oliver Wendell Holmes' Autocrat of the Breakfast Table*.

—CAT'S FOOT!—A New England ejaculation equivalent to the English colloquial "stuff and nonsense!"—CAT-NAP.—This is given by Lowell as a short doze.—CAT-STICK.—A small stick; or in Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Maryland, and further South the term is applied to firewood.

**CATALPA** (The *Bignonia catalpa* of Linnæus).—*Catalpa* is the Indian name of an extremely ornamental tree possessing broad, large leaves and gorgeous clusters of flowers, white and red in colour. It attains no great age, and its timber is of little account. A native of the Middle and Southern States, it was discovered in South Carolina in 1726 by Catesby.

**CATAMOUNT** (*Felis concolor*).—The popular name of animals of the feline species, as, for example the cougar, the puma, and the panther. Authorities differ as to whether *catamount* is derived from the Spanish *gato*, a cat, and *monte*, a mountain; or whether its true origin is to be found in the "cat-a-mountain" of Beaumont and Fletcher, Pope, and Arbuthnot; in which latter case *catamount* is simply a contraction. The animal itself, under whatever name it is known, has a range from the sub-tropical States to Cape Horn.

At that, the boys took arter them full chisel, and the galls run off as if a CATAMOUNT had been arter them.—*Downing's May Day in New York*, p. 46.

**CATAWAMPTIOUSLY**.—With avidity; fierce eagerness. A negro derivative from CATAMOUNT, and founded on the ferocity exhibited by animals of that species in attacking their prey. In the South-west the simile "like a catamount attacking a coon" is part of the popular speech, and from this is obtained TO BE CALAWAMPTIOUSLY CHAWED UP, an idiom signifying complete annihilation.

**CATAWBA GRAPE** (*Vitis labrusca*).—The indigenous grape of North America, its name being derived from the Indians in whose haunts this variety was first discovered. It has since been hybridized with European varieties. No grape is so luscious when well ripened and free from rot. It ripens somewhat too late, unless it is placed in a southern exposure, and when in perfection it leads in prices.

**CATCH**.—TO CATCH ON to a thing is to understand it; to grasp its meaning. A literal translation, in

fact, into the language of slang of the Latin word "apprehend"—a rendering which shows a keen appreciation in off-hand fashion of the real gist of the idea thus conveyed. The idiom, vulgar though it be, is very popularly colloquial, and occurs in many different connections.

'Sah?' responded the woolly-headed darkey, rubbing his heavy eyes.

'I'm going through to Denver with Bill to-morrow.' (Bill was one of the drivers on the stage line; the other was Si—abbreviated from Silas.) The postmaster continued: 'You an' Francis Murphy keep awake part o' the time, an' sorter watch things while I'm gone. Do yer KETCH ON?'

'Yes, in course, sah.'—*Portland Transcript*, March 14, 1888.

'That was an awful blizzard you had there' (in Dakota).

'It was that.'

'Were you in it?'

'I started to go out, but went back, and a little ring of us played billiards nearly all the time for three days. It was awful, sir—just awful. I hope never to see another while I live.'

'I—I don't exactly CATCH ON,' stammered the clerk.

'Why, three extra days was twelve dollars, wasn't it, saying nothing of cigars, drinks and billiards? No, sir. The reports have not been exaggerated in the slightest. It was simply awful—awful. Give me a second floor front, please.'—*Western Rural*, 1888.

Like most slang expressions, the original meaning is frequently enlarged. To *catch on* has likewise come to signify a capacity to quickly grasp an opportunity and turn it to advantage.

No one will deny that the managers of *The Boston Globe* are enterprising; they have a faculty of CATCHING ON, as the boys say, and when there is no opportunity open to them they make an opportunity.—*Peabody Reporter*, 1888.

—TO CATCH UP.—In prairie parlance to prepare for a start. "Lave!" (Fr., *levez-vous*) is also employed with the same meaning.

**CATERCORNERED**.—De Vere quotes this as a very common term in Vir-



ginia and the South, evidently derived from the French *quatre*, as in *cater*, the four of dice, etc.; and in *cater-cousin*. The word occurs in Carr's *Craven Glossary*, and Grose has a similar word, *cater-cross*. "You must go *cater-cross* the field, Kent." (*Sub voce.*)

**CATTLE.**—In America the term *cattle* is never, as is sometimes the case in England, applied to horses or animals other than those of the bovine species.—**CATTLE MARK.**—A proprietor's brand placed upon *cattle*.—See **BRANDS** and **ROUND UP**.

—**CATTLE PEN**, or simply **PEN**, is the name given, in Jamaica, to land used for grazing purposes, being the counterpart of the Western ranch and the Kentucky cattle range.—**CATTLE RAISER.**—A grazer on a large scale; also called, when very rich, a **CATTLE KING**.

Of the sixty beeves slaughtered daily in Matamoras, three-fourths are stolen from Texas. It costs the Texas **CATTLE-RAISERS** 339,500 dols. per annum to feed that one Mexican Town.—*San Francisco Weekly Bulletin*, 1888.

Anything more foolish than the demagogic outcry against **CATTLE KINGS** it would be difficult to imagine. Indeed, there are very few businesses so absolutely legitimate as stock-raising, and so beneficial to the nation at large.—*Ranch Life in the Far West*.

—**CATTLE RANGE.**—Parks, even those attached to country residences, are so called in Kentucky; this State is famous for its pasture and grazing lands.

**CATTY.**—The **CAT** (*q.v.*).

**CAUCUS.**—A meeting of partisans, congressional or otherwise, to decide upon the action to be taken by the party. The word is said to have been used as early as 1724 (Gordon's *History of American Revolution*), and Dr. Trumbull, of

Hartford, derives it from the Indian *cau-cau-as-ic*, one who advises. This in view of its undoubted transatlantic origin seems a far more likely derivation than that given by both Bartlett and De Vere (and Dr. Brewer in *Phrase and Fable* has followed them) to the effect that its derivation may be sought in the meetings held by ship caulkers to discuss grievances and suggest remedies when on strike. It certainly appears very unlikely that such trade combinations were known at that time, especially in a new country like America. The word has now become part and parcel of political cant wherever English is spoken. In England it is generally associated with a private assembly of politicians, but in America this is not necessarily the case, but, says Procter, as it is generally to perpetrate some rascality the term has an unpleasant sound in American ears.—Hence **ANTI-CAUCUS** to signify those opposed to the control of elections by these private committees.

Andrew Jackson, Henry Clay . . . became candidates for president in defiance of the **CAUCUS**. Mr. Calhoun finally withdrew, and received the votes of nearly all the **ANTI-CAUCUS** men for vice-president.—*New York Times*, 1888.

**CAUSALTY.**—A corruption of "casualty."

**CAUTION.**—A **CAUTION TO SNAKES**, *i.e.*, a warning. The expression is purely slang, and anything that causes surprise, wonder, fear, or indeed any unusual sensation, or anything out of the common, seems, in the vulgar tongue, to be "a caution" to this, that, and the other. *To be a caution to snakes*, however, bears the palm. Major Downing, in *Mayday in New York*, says: "There is a plaguy sight of folks in America, and the way they

swallow down the cheap books is 'a caution to old rags and paper-makers.' " Another writer (Thorpe's *Mysteries of the Backwoods*), describing the piano, winds up with the assertion that the way some dear creatures could pull music out of it was "a caution to hoarse owls"; and in yet another place we read that the way the old bear caved around and roared was "a caution to snakes." — CAUTIONARY. — Phenomenal. From the slang expression, "a caution."

Well, the way the cow cut dirt was CAUTIONARY; she cleared stumps, ditches, windfalls, and everything.—*Sam Slick in England*.

**CAVALIERESS.**—A horsewoman. Probably one of Mark Twain's individualisms. In the *Innocents at Home*, he speaks of the white folks at Honolulu having "to stay in doors, for every street was.... packed with charging cavaliers and CAVALIERESSES." (From *Latin caballus*).

**CAVALLARD** otherwise **CABALLADA** (*q.v.*).

**CAVE.**—To CAVE IN.—This term, derived from a practice of navvies in digging earthworks, when the lower part is undermined until it can no longer sustain the overhanging mass, has become, in America, a phrase to indicate giving way, when opposition can no longer be maintained; to break down; to give up. A bank *caves in* when it stops payment; fortunes *cave in* when riches take wings; and when a man threatens to *cave in* his opponent's head, he simply means that he will break it. These and other playfully idiomatic shades of meaning have gathered round the primary signification.

I kin CAVE IN enny man's head that, etc.—*Artemus Ward, His Book*.

In the meantime the tropical sun was beating down and threatening to CAVE the top of my head in.—*Mark Twain's Innocents at Home*.

**CAVENDISH.**—A well-known brand of tobacco; also called **NEGRO-HEAD**.

**CAVERN LIME-STONE.**—A carboniferous deposit of lime-stone in Kentucky, popularly so called from the large number of caves and holes with which it abounds.

**CAVESON.**—Of French extraction (*caveçon*); this is the name given, in New England, to the muzzle of a horse.

**CAVORT, To.**—To prance; to move about quickly. Probably derived from the *Lingua Franca cavolta*, a prancing about on horseback. Some, however, derive it from "curvetting," a capering about to show off; but whichever derivation is the true one, or whether it comes from the Spanish *cavar*, the proud pawing of a spirited horse; or from the French *courbetter*—in any case it has come to mean colloquially a running or riding around in a heedless, purposeless manner.

He lunged and plunged, and wheezed and squeezed, and snorted and CAVORTED—till he was wedged, jammed in so tightly, that to move an inch backward or forward was simply impossible.—*American Humorist*, May 26, 1888.

A sailor named Jones jumped over after him, and after CAVORTING around about an hour or so succeeded in getting the miserable little scion of a worthless sire on board again.—*Mark Twain's Screemers*.

**CAWHALUX!**—Supposed to be an imitation of the sound produced in boxing the ears.

**CAYMAN.**—The Indian name of the American alligator.

**CAYOTE OR COYOTE** (*Canis latrans*).—

The prairie wolf, which, in Mexico, is called by its Aztek name *coyotl*. This animal is of the size of a pointer; like the wolf they hunt in packs and are much less fearless; and like the fox they live in burrows. Mark Twain describes this animal somewhat humorously.

The CAYOTE is a long, slim, sick- and sorry-looking skeleton, with a gray wolf-skin stretched over it, a tolerably bushy tail that for ever sags down with a despairing expression of forsakenness and misery, a furtive and evil eye, and a long, sharp face, with slightly lifted lip and exposed teeth. He has a general slinking expression all over. The CAYOTE is a living, breathing allegory of want. He is always hungry. He is always poor, out of luck, and friendless.

[Dodge, in his *Plains of the Great West* (p. 209), says]:—The COYOTE proper I have never seen except in Texas and Mexico. It is a miserable little cur of an animal, scarcely larger than a fox.

—To CAYOTE OR COYOTE.—From the habit of the *coyote* living in burrows has been derived the verb to *coyote*, used in California in the sense of to sink a shaft; these shafts are sometimes called *coyote* diggings.

**CAYUSE.**—A common Indian pony; called also THE YACHT OF THE PRAIRIE on the same principle as the camel is the ship of the desert. These horses, thought to be the degenerate of English, as the mustang is of Spanish horses, are largely used by Indians. Their powers of endurance are remarkable, as also are some of their other qualities.

'How far will he carry me in a day, I ask?'

'As far as you can ride him,' answers the owner.

'Does he buck?' 'Every CAYUSE bucks!'

'Does he bite?' 'Of course he bites!'

'Kick?' 'Kicks!' I had learned enough to start on.—*A Cruise on a Cayuse, in Overland Monthly*, 1886.

*Cayuse* has now come to be used in

a depreciative sense, being applied to any poor, broken-down jade.

**'CAZE.**—The same as BECAUSE (*q.v.*).

**CEDAR.**—This name is erroneously given to trees other than the genuine species, and more particularly, under the name of WHITE CEDAR, to a cypress (*Cypressus thyoides*).—The RED CEDAR is a juniper (*Juniperus virginiana*).—The CEDAR SWAMPS of the South, unlike the mere swampy marshes of the North, are low-lying grounds mainly under water; these are also called CEDAR BRAKES.

**CELESTIAL.**—A Chinaman, or, when used adjectively, pertaining to the *Celestial*—i.e., Chinese Empire.

**CENT.**—A small copper coin worth the hundredth part of a dollar, and almost equivalent in value to a halfpenny. In some parts, notably the West of New England, this coin is called a penny; but whether this practice is a survival, or a mere vulgarism, is not quite clear; in any case it is an inaccuracy.—CENT SHOP.—A small shop, in which articles may be bought to the value of a cent. Hawthorne, in *The House of the Seven Gables*, speaks of the mistress of the Pyncheon house being "reduced now in that very house to be the hucksteress of a *cent shop*."

—NOT TO CARE A CENT, OR NOT WORTH A CENT; to care very little or not at all, to be worth little or nothing.

Boarder—'I don't know what's the matter with me, but I haven't been able to eat WORTH A CENT since I came to this house.'

Landlady—'Were you a museum freak before you lost your appetite?'—*Nebraska State Journal*, May, 1883.

'Don't fire,' sez Joe, 'it ain't no use, Ther's Deacon Peleg's tame wil'-goose: ' Seys Isrel, 'I DON'T CARE A CENT, I've sighted an' I'll let her went.'

—*Biglow Papers*.



The Providence liquor-dealers sent an emissary to this city to see if they could not work up some enthusiasm for Barnaby; but the dealers here would not enthuse WORTH A CENT.—*Providence Journal*.

**CENTRALIZATION.**—The political creed which favors large powers for the general government, as opposed to the limitation of State rights.

**CENTRE-BOARD.**—This invention claims an American birth; it consists of an arrangement by which the keel of a small craft can be let up and down, thereby affecting the speed, and permitting a vessel to ply in waters otherwise too shallow. The device is now largely adopted by English shipwrights.

**CENTRICAL.**—A synonym of "central," which, in some districts, especially Virginia, is preferred to the more common expression. Scott seems to have used it largely, but otherwise the word is in little vogue in England; its use, colloquially, savoring somewhat of pedantry.

**CERNEAU MASONRY.**—From Joseph Cerneau, who, born at Villeblerin, in France, in 1763, emigrated to America, and, in 1812, established a body called the "Sovereign Grand Consistory of the United States of America." For this Cerneau was expelled by the Supreme Grand Council, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, sitting at Charlestown, South Carolina, in 1813. There are still many Cerneau masons, in Ohio, where, quite recently (1888), there has been considerable agitation on the question of the legitimacy of the so-called Cerneau Scottish Rite, the result being that the Grand Commandery and the Grand Lodge have issued their edicts that members who affiliate with the Cerneau

Scottish Rite Masons shall not be allowed to hold office.

**CERTIFIED.**—Certain.—In Sam Slick's *Clockmaker* occurs the phrase, "I ain't quite *certified* we shan't have a tower [tour] in Europe yet."

**CHAINED LIGHTNING.**—(1) Whiskey of the vilest description—a spirit that, with a horrible cynicism, a Western man says is warranted to kill at forty rods. Hence a synonym FORTY ROD LIGHTNING. The brutal irony enshrined in the slang names of the wretchedly bad and fiery spirit which, in the West, does duty for whiskey, is very suggestive. Amongst others may be named STONE-FENCE, RAILROAD and ROT-GUT. —(2) The Western man never speaks of "forked" lightning; he calls it *chained lightning*.

**CHAIRWOMAN.**—A title similar in formation to ALDER-WOMAN, CLERGY-WOMAN, etc. (*q.v.*)—all products of an advanced civilization.

**CHALK TALK.**—A new name for a variation of an old amusement. This consists in illustrating a subject by means of a black-board and chalk. A skilful artist will produce his drawings with extraordinary rapidity—"lightning sketches," usually of an amusing, comic, or satirical character.—So also CHALK-TALKER.

Rolo Byron, the celebrated CHALK-TALKER, entertained a fair-sized audience this evening on prohibition.—*St. Paul and Minneapolis Pioneer Press*, July 22, 1888.

**CHANCE, TO.**—(1) A shade of meaning other than the legitimate ones of "to happen" or "come unexpectedly" has been applied, first in the States, and then in England, to this word, in the sense of to risk, *e.g.*, "I'll chance that." Now

very commonly colloquial.—(2) A chance in the South signifies a quantity; a supply; or portion.

**CHANGE.**—To MEET WITH A CHANGE, *i.e.*, in the cant of certain sections of religionists, to be "convicted of sin"; "struck under conviction"; "to get religion"—all phrases intended to signify a new state of mind, and a *change* as regards the motive power regulating one's life conduct.

**CHAPARAJOS OF CHAPARRO.**—Trousers made of stout leather, and stitched with leather cording. Worn by cowboys, and other plainmen. The term is often curtailed to CHAPS.

On a board placed on two chairs, lay all that was mortal of Brooklyn Jim. Clad in the woollen shirt and blue overalls over which were the leather CHAPARAJOS of the cowpuncher, the long fringe hung down on each side of the board like fringe on a bier.  
—*Detroit Free Press*, July 21, 1888.

**CHAPARRAL.**—A compound word, from the Spanish *chaparra*, a dwarf evergreen oak, and *al*, a termination equivalent to "a place of"; thus, *chaparral* means primarily a tract of land covered with oak thickets or bushes. Introduced into general use from Texas and New Mexico, and applied to any thick tangle of bramble bushes or thorny shrubs in clumps.

He talked about delishis froots, but then it wuz a wopper all,  
The holl on 't 's mud an' prickly pears, with here an' there a CHAPARRAL.  
—*Biglow Papers*.

**CHAPS.**—See CHAPARAJOS.

**CHARIVARI.**—See CHIRAVARI.

**CHARLEY (Cant).**—This word, which in old English slang stood for a

watchman, or beadle, and latterly for a policeman, does duty among American thieves for a gold watch.

**CHARM (Cant).**—A pick lock.—CHARMS.—A slang term for money; not much used now, but like "John Davis," "Ready John" [or simply "John" or "Ready"] "Spondulics," "Dooteroomus" [or "doot"] "tow," "wad," "hard stuff" [or "hard"] "dirt," "shin-plasters" [or "plasters"] "wherewith," "shadscales" [or "scales"] "dye stuffs," "stamps" etc., has had a vogue.

**CHARTER-OAK CITY.**—Hartford, Connecticut. This singular cognomen is supposed to have been derived from a large oak, in the cavity of which the Charter of the colony of Connecticut was concealed by the Legislature when King James II., in 1698, sent Sir Edmund Andros to demand its restitution, when that king determined to withdraw the privileges conferred by such a document.

**CHATES (Cant).**—The gallows.

**CHATTY FEEDER (Cant).**—A spoon.

**CHAW, TO.**—An old English word, still in popular use, for "to chew," in many parts of the States; except as a provincialism, or as slang, *chaw* has, in England, been supplanted by its more modern form. Tobacco is *chawed* by the quid, or mouthful.—To CHAW UP has a slang sense in America—"to demolish"; or "discomfit."  
—To CHAW UP ONE'S WORDS.—To retract an assertion; or, as English people would put it, "to eat one's words."—CHAWING GUM.—Gum prepared for mastication.

You ought never to take your little brother's CHAWING GUM away from him by main force;

it is better to rope him in with a promise.—*Mark Twain's Sketches.*

**CHEAT.**—The popular name of the *Bromus scalinus* or **CHES** (*q.v.*).

**CHEBACCO BOAT.**—A craft used in the cod-fisheries of Newfoundland, which derives its specific name from the fact that this class of vessel was, at one time, largely built and fitted out at Chebacco, Ipswich, Mass. The name is sometimes corrupted into **TOBACCO-BOAT**, a transition readily understood. Also called **PINK-STERN**.

**CHECK.**—(1) A Pennsylvanian term for an inpromptu cold meal.—  
(2) A ticket.

The priest was engaged in disposing of admission **CHECKS** to a church fair, to transpire the following Saturday, and hoping the sooner to get rid of him, and despite the utter impossibility that he would be present at the diversion, McKenna purchased a ticket.—*Pinkerton's Mollie Maguires and Detectives.*

—To **CHECK**, equivalent to the English "to book," *e.g.*, Mark Twain in his *Curious Pleasure Excursion*, speaks of baggage being *checked* through to any part of the route. Also to give tallies or other receipts for personal *impedimenta* when left in cloak-rooms and similar offices.

One of the excursionists from Northern New York, turning to the man who **CHECKS** umbrellas and canes, said:

'What is that great stone affair?'—*American Humorist*, July 21, 1888.

—**CHECK CLERK.**—The clerk in charge of a cloak-room, or one employed in the office at hotels, to allot rooms to visitors, and to book their names in the hotel register.

—**CHECKS.**—Money; cash. A term derived from poker where counters or *checks* bought, as one enters, at certain fixed rates, are equivalent to current coin.—To

**PASS IN OR CASH ONE'S CHECKS** is a phrase also derived from the same source and signifies death. This euphemistic simile is drawn from the analogy between settling one's earthly accounts, and the paying in to the banker of the dues at the end of the game. De Vere makes a sad mistake in defining the meaning of this expression.

Well I owned the mule for several years after that, and when he finally **PASSED** IN HIS **CHECKS** I gave him as decent a burial as any pioneer ever got.—*New York Sun*, 1888.

Do you and each of you solemnly sw'ar that you will marry each other in the presence o' this court; that you will do the squar' thing by each other; that you will give everybody else the go-by, an' cling to each other through life till death calls upon you to cash in your earthly **CHECKS**, an' that you will be to each other husban' an' wife, accordin' to the law an' the prophets, an' the rules an' regulations o' this honor'ble court, in sich cases made an' pervided, so help ye God?—*American Humorist*, August 11, 1888.

I have heard many stories of hair-breadth 'scapes from buffalo; I have seen railroad and wagon trains stopped to wait his pleasure; and as close a shave as I ever made to **PASSING** IN MY **CHECKS** was from a buffalo stampede.—*Richard Irvine Dodge's Plains of the Great West.*

—**CHECK GUERILLA.**—A gambling house sponger, who loafs about for the sake of such small coins or *checks* as the frequenters of such places may think fit to bestow upon him.—To **PUT A CHECK-STRAP ON ONE** is a phrase drawn from the training of horses; the check strap, in cow-boy parlance, controls the bit in the horse's mouth. Hence to *put a check strap on* an opponent is to adopt such measures as will enforce the doing of what is desired.

**CHECKERBERRY**, OR **CHEQUERBERRY**, also **CHICKBERRY** (*Gaultheria procumbens*).—A night, red-colored aromatic berry. *Chickberry* is the New England name for it. Also called **PARTRIDGE-BERRY** (*q.v.*) and **TWINBERRY**.



The sea air was mingled with the fragrance of pines, wild flowers, and the spicy CHECKERBERRY.—*Portland Transcript*, 1888.

**CHEEK.**—A door-post. Little heard now, but for a long period this English provincialism survived in the States. It is used in the same sense in the Craven dialect.

**CHEESE.**—THAT'S THE CHEESE.—An expression signifying "excellent performance"—"quite the thing." —CHEESE IT!—An exclamatory injunction to stop. The phrase "Now cheese it!" is often heard. It is doubtful whether this can be classed as an Americanism. Authorities, however, differ as to its birthplace. In the *Nation* (1876), it was recorded as a recently introduced Americanism.

**CHEESE BOX.**—A nickname applied by Confederates to gunboats of the MONITOR TYPE (*q.v.*).

**CHEESEPARING.**—Tomfoolery.

**CHEMILOON.**—A feminine article of underwear, usually known in England as "combinations," *i.e.*, the chemise and drawers united in one garment.

**CHERRY** (Cant).—A young girl; a full grown woman is similarly called a CHERRY RIPE.

**CHESS** (*Bromus scallinus*).—A weed, similar to oats in appearance. Growing up amongst wheat and other grain crops, it proves very troublesome to the farmer. Vulgarly but erroneously supposed to be degenerate wheat. It is narcotic in its effects. Also called CHEAT.

**CHEST.**—CHUCK OUT YOUR CHEST, *i.e.*, pull yourself together; stand firm; keep a stiff upper lip.

**CHESTNUT.**—An old story; something that has been frequently said or done before. As to the variants of this phrase—their name is legion. The old songs are *chestnut* songs; he who would foist a stale joke upon a company is implored to "spare the *chestnut* tree," "not to rustle the *chestnut* leaves," or "set the *chestnut* bell a-ringing." Similarly, anything old or out of date is said to have a *chestnutty* flavor. According to the *Philadelphia Press*, the introduction of the word in its slang sense is to be attributed to Mr. William Warren, a veteran Boston comedian.

It seems that in a melodrama, but little known to the present generation, written by William Dillon, and called 'The Broken Sword,' there were two characters, one a Capt. Xavier, and the other the comedy part of Pablo. The captain is a sort of Baron Munchausen, and in telling of his exploits says: 'I entered the woods of Colloway, when suddenly from the thick boughs of a cork tree'—Pablo interrupts him with the words: 'A CHESTNUT, captain, a CHESTNUT.' 'Bah!' replies the captain, 'Booby, I say a cork tree.' 'A CHESTNUT,' reiterates Pablo, 'I should know as well as you, having heard you tell the tale these twenty-seven times.' William Warren, who had often played the part of Pablo, was at a stag dinner, when one of the gentlemen present told a story of doubtful age and originality. 'A CHESTNUT,' murmured Mr. Warren, quoting from the play, 'I have heard you tell the tale these twenty-seven times.' The application of the lines pleased the rest of the table, and when the party broke up each helped to spread the story and Mr. Warren's commentary.

'May I venture to tell the old, old story, Miss Maud,' he said, tremulously; 'the old, old, yet ever new, story of—'

'Pardon me, Mr. Sampson, if I cause you pain,' interrupted the girl, gently, 'but to me the story you wish to tell is a CHESTNUT.'

'A CHESTNUT?'

'Yes, Mr. Sampson, I'm already engaged; but I will be a sister—'

'It isn't as wormy as that one,' murmured Mr. Sampson, feeling for his hat.—*New York Sun*, 1888.

The large audience, which filled the church to its utmost capacity, evidently greeted the question 'Who will take care of the baby when women vote?' as an old joke, for they all smiled, some blandly, except one young gentleman, who looked around inquiringly and said in a whisper loud enough to be overheard: 'Who rings that CHESTNUT bell to-night?' But Mrs. Harbert, with undisturbed gravity, replied: 'Why, friends, that question was asked and answered forty years ago.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*, 1888.

His favorite song, which he tries to sing frequently, is 'Sweet Violets,' and the boys all yell CHESTNUTS when he begins that tune.—*Cincinnati Enquirer*, 1888.

**CHETOWAIK.**—An Indian name for the plover. The term is used by Longfellow in his introduction to *Hiawatha*.

**CHEWALLOP!**—Objects falling heavily to the ground are said to fall *chewallop*. Sam Slick used the expression.

I felt . . . only one step more [and I] was over head and ears CHEWALLOP in the water.—*Sam Slick's Clockmaker*.

**CHEWING GUM.**—See GUM.

**CHEWINK** (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*).—The ground robin or towhee-bunting described by P. H. Gosse as a prettily marked bird, black above, with white bands on the wings; the sides are chestnut red, and the under parts white. Its note is supposed to resemble the word "towhee," but its name *chewink* is also supposed to be derived from this peculiarity. On Long Island it is called the TOWHEE GOLDFINCH, and in Louisiana the GRASSET from its plump appearance.

**CHICHA.**—A fermented concoction, of which the ingredients are maize, pine-apple, banana, and other fruits. It is sweet to the taste, and is a favorite drink of West Indian negroes.

**CHICKADEE** (*Parus atricapillus*).—The blackcap tit. Like many another

of its feathered companions it derives its popular name from its peculiar note or cry. Elsewhere it is known as the HOARY TIT-MOUSE.

Far distant sounds the hidden CHICKADEE,  
Close at my side; far distant sound the leaves.  
—J. R. Lowell's *Indian Summer Reverie*.

**CHICKAREE** (*Sciurus hudsonius*).—The red squirrel, its cry having suggested the popular name. The little animal is common in all the Northern States.

**CHICKASAW PLUM** (*Prunus chicasa*).—The bush bearing this plum abounds in the neighbourhood of Red River, Arkansas, a favorite hunting-ground of the Chickasaw Indians—hence its name. The fruit itself is large, pleasant to the taste, and of a color varying from a palish pink to dark crimson.

**CHICK-BERRY.**—See CHECKER-BERRY.

**CHICKEN-FIXINGS.**—Formerly a hash, stew, or fricassee of chicken, but the term is now applied to any fare out of the common, and also to show of any kind. Compare with COMMON DOINGS.

An extraordinary sight were the countless waiters, held up to the car-windows at Gordonsville by turbaned negro-women, filled with coffee-cups, eggs, and the inevitable CHICKEN-FIXINGS, which it was henceforth our fate to meet at every railroad depot, till we reached New Orleans.—*A Trip to the South*.

These preachers dress like big bugs, and go ridin' about on hundred-dollar horses, a-spungin' poor priest-ridden folks, and a-eaten CHICKEN-FIXENS so powerful fast that chickens has got scarce in these diggings.—*Carlton's New Purchase*, vol. ii, p. 140.

**CHICKEN-GRAPE** (*Vitis riparia*).—Otherwise called the BERMUDA VINE, RIVER GRAPE and FROST GRAPE. *Chicken grape* is its Southern name.

It bears no fruit, but is much esteemed for its sweet scented blossoms.

**CHICKEN-GUMBO.**—A kind of chicken soup, in which the GUMBO or GOMBO (*q.v.*) enters as a component part.

We . . . . felt staggered rather at a menu at the Windsor Hotel, including such hitherto unheard of luxuries as CHICKEN-GUMBO, sheep's-head (a fish), string beans, and mush; gazed in terror at the pretty jewelled fingers and white teeth opposite making short work of a very buttery corn-cob.—*Phillips-Wolley's Trottings of a Tenderfoot*, p. 5.

**CHICKWIT.**—The BLUE-FISH of Connecticut (*q.v.*).

**CHIGOE** (*Pulex penetrans*).—A small flea that burrows under the toenails, where it forms an egg-bag almost the size of a small pea. This has to be extracted with a needle, for if neglected painful sores are engendered. It is found in the West Indies and along the Mexican coast. The name *chigoe* has many variants—JIGGER, NIGUA, CHEGO, CHIGO, CHIGRE, TUNGUA, PIQUE. The seed-tick of Kentucky is supposed by some to be the same insect, but this is doubtful, as it does not cause the same torment by the growth of the eggs under the skin. Gosse states of the seed-tick that they are so numerous and perpetually present in the South as to be dignified by a changing nomenclature according to age; "the first season they are called seed-ticks, the next year they become yearling-ticks, and the third, old-ticks." Only in the tropics, however, can the full inconvenience of these pests be experienced.

**CHILD.**—THIS CHILD, *i.e.*, one's self; a mock modest *façon de parler*.

THIS CHILD has felt like going West for many a month, being half froze for buffalo

meat and mountain doin's.—*Ruxton's Far West*.

**CHILI, CHILLI.**—The American red pepper. In the plural it refers to the pods or fruit of the capsicum. In parts of the country, formerly under Spanish rule, it is known as the CHILI COLORADO.

**CHILLS and FEVER.**—Fever and ague.

**CHIMISAL.**—A local name in California, Texas, and Mexico, for the grease-wood. From the Spanish, in which *chamiza* signifies a kind of wild reed or cane. Bret Harte describes a man, in an inundation, rowing on the vast expanse of water and saying: "With my hands dipped listlessly over the thwarts I detected the tops of *chimisal*, which showed the tide to have somewhat fallen."—*Luck of Roaring Camp*, p. 229.

**CHIN** (Cant).—A child.—To CHIN.—To talk or act impudently or with brazen effrontery.—Also CHIN MUSIC. In English slang we get CHIN WAG.

Whereupon a young sprig . . . . began to sass [saunce] the conductor with his CHIN-MUSIC.—*Mark Twain's Gilded Age*

And at last, when I stood before the Republican office and looked up at its tall unsympathetic front, it seemed hardly me that could have CHINNED its towers ten minutes before, and was now so shrunk up and pitiful.—*Mark Twain's Screamers*.

**CHINATOWN.**—The Chinese quarter of San Francisco; the term is now applied to such localities all over the Union.

**CHINA WEDDING.**—The twentieth anniversary of a wedding is so called.—See WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.



The occasion was the twentieth anniversary, or CHINA WEDDING of Mr. and Mrs. Pope.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, March 30, 1888.

**CHINCAPIN, CHINQUAPIN.**—A Powhattan Indian name for the *Castanea pumila*.

De Vere quotes a story told of Mr. Jefferson by his detractors, that in his desire to import valuable trees and plants into his native State, he ordered from abroad, among other shrubs, a number of dwarf chestnuts, quoted as *Castanea pumila* in botanical catalogues. They came, they grew, and turned out to be the CHINQUAPIN of Virginia, a native tree, than which few are more common in the South.

**CHINCE.**—A marble.

**CHINCHE OR CHINCH-BUG.**—A name applied not only to the common domestic nuisance (*Cimex lectularius*) but also to an insect, equally offensive, which creates great havoc among grain crops. The name itself is of Spanish derivation. An Arkansas paper details, among other inducements to emigrants to settle in that State, that:—

The grasshopper is unknown; likewise the CHINCH-BUG. From pests that devour our crops, from the cold that destroys in winter and the heat that kills in summer, we are exempt.—*Little Rock Democrat*, 1838.

**CHINESE.**—THE CHINESE MUST GO.—

An expression which has recently acquired new significance in that the prejudice against the Chinese has come to a head, and has resulted in the passing of a law to prevent further immigration into the States on the part of Celestials.

**CHINESE SUGAR CANE.**—The Sorghum.

**CHINK, CHINCE, CHINSE, TO.**—To fill up the long narrow openings or interstices between the roughly hewn timber of log cabins. The material used for this purpose is

chiefly mud or clay formed into a kind of plaster or cement. Daubing sometimes follows the last-named operation, consisting in making a smooth surface over the whole by means of the same material; the complete process is what is known in the North of England as filling and daubing.

**CHINKERS (Cant).**—When handcuffs are united by a chain they are called *chinkers*. The derivation is obvious.

**CHINOOK OR CHINOOK JARGON.**—A trade language of Oregon and the North-west coast—a kind of conventional language like the *Lingua Franca* of the Mediterranean, and the Pidgin English of the East. An exhaustive report concerning this philological phenomenon was issued by the United States Exploring Expedition during the years 1838-42. A well-known philologist, Dr. Horatio Hale, accompanied the survey, and the following particulars are obtained from that source, vol. iii., p. 635, which indeed is authoritative and complete. The circumstances to which *Chinook* owes its origin are probably as follows:—When the British and American trading ships first appeared on the coast, about 1760, they found there many tribes speaking distinct languages. Had it chanced that any one of these had been of easy acquisition, and very generally diffused, it would no doubt have been adopted as the medium of communication between the whites and the natives. Unfortunately all were alike harsh in pronunciation, complex in structure, and spoken over a very limited space. The foreigners, therefore, took no pains to become acquainted with any of them. But the exigencies of trade, the headquarters

of which were at Nootka, necessarily involved some dialect words becoming known to the traders; and, *vice versâ*, some English words being adopted by the Indians. These, with signs, sufficed for the time. Trade soon extended to the Columbia river, and the traders attempted to hold communication with the *Chinooks* by means of the Nootka words. The former, quick to catch sounds, soon acquired these words, and in 1804 the *Fargon* was in pretty general use in the region specified. The next development occurred when the whites established themselves in Oregon and the store of words was found quite inadequate for the more general and constant intercourse. An enlargement of the language took place by incorporating from the native Tshinuk or *Chinook* such words as were requisite, the chief additions being the numerals, the pronouns, and about twenty adverbs and prepositions. The *Fargon*, or trade language, then began to assume a regular shape, and as time went on received additions from several other sources. Chief among these were the Canadian *voyageurs*, or free traders of French stock. These people, more than any others, lived on terms of the closest familiarity with the Indians, and, in consequence, they have left a permanent mark on the slender stock of *Fargon* words. What grammarians call onomatopœia, or the formation of words in imitation of sounds, is also responsible for a few additions to this strange speech, as *e.g.*, *liptip* is intended to express the sound of boiling water, and means to boil; *tiktik* is for a watch; *tuntum* stands for heart and is supposed to represent its beating and so on. In the phonology of the language one point is peculiarly interesting as illustrating the usual

result of the fusion of two or more languages—as the *Fargon* was spoken by Indians, English and French, we find no sound not easy and common to all. The grammatical rules are simple, and of inflections there are none, but on the other hand compounds are frequent, as for example: *ship-man*, a sailor; *stik-stone*, petrified wood, and so on. A full vocabulary, entitled *A Dictionary of the Chinook Fargon*, was published by George Gibbs, in 1863, on behalf of the Smithsonian Institution. He estimated the total number of words at that time at about 500, of which about 160 are French and English, eighteen of unknown derivation, and all the others belonging to the *Chinook* and kindred dialects. These elements have been slightly modified in the *Fargon*: the Indian gutturals are softened or dropped, and the *f* and *r* of the English and French, unpronounceable to the Indians, are modified into *p* and *l*. Grammatical forms are reduced to their simplest expression, and variations in mood and tense are only conveyed by adverbs or by the context.

Chief Joseph understood a little English and O'Hara a little CHINOOK. CHINOOK is the name given to a species of Volapuk that all Indian tribes in the North-west understand. The CHINOOK language is composed of 158 (*sic*) words, and by using it the Hudson Bay Company could converse with any Indian tribe from Lake Superior to the Pacific coast.—*Missouri Republican*, April 8, 1888.

—CHINOOK WIND.—The *Chinook wind* is so called by the Indians of the Columbia River, because it comes to them from the direction of the country of the Chinooks. An interesting bit of tradition and information concerning this wind has been supplied in a report of Governor Temple, of Washington Territory, to the Secretary of the Interior.

[In this report it is described as] A baliny wind, coming from the Kuro Siwo, or great

Japanese current, of the Pacific Ocean. In the summer it is a cool wind, and tempers the heat; in the winter it is warm and moist, and is sometimes slightly odoriferous. Snow and ice disappear before it with rapidity, and it seems to blow for long distances between walls of colder air without parting with its heat. Sometimes it constitutes an upper current, in which case the remarkable spectacle is witnessed of snow melting from the mountain tops while the thermometers in the valleys register below the freezing point. At other times it is a surface current, and follows the valleys and gorges as a flood might follow them. It seems to bear healing upon its wings, like Sandalphon, the angel of prayer, and it is not difficult to conceive why the Indians have personified it in order to fix upon it their devotions. This wind sometimes penetrates as far as the upper stretches of the Missouri, and even tempers the air on the plains of Dakota beyond the Rocky Mountains. Wherever it goes the chains of winter are unloosed and the ice-bound rivers are set free. The CHINOOK is the natural enemy of the odious east wind, and while, ordinarily, it yields its influence as gently as the zephyrs that waft the thistle down in autumn, still there are times when the two winds engage in giant conflicts and fight for supremacy, now in the upper, then in the lower strata, on the mountains and in the valleys, alternately driving each other back and forth. But the combat is never long, and the victory is always with the CHINOOK. The inhabitants east of the Cascade mountains, when winter has seized them and the east wind dashes snow in their faces, pray for the CHINOOK to come. Such is the CHINOOK WIND, called by the natives the blessed wind of the far North-west.—*Report of Governor Temple.*

Since writing the last notes from the Yellowstone National Park the weather here has been unusually warm and pleasant, with occasional light snowfalls, but not enough to add to the depth. The frequent CHINOOKS have settled the snow faster than it fell, clearing all the streams of ice and uncovering a great amount of country where the snow was thin.—*Correspondent of Forest and Stream, March 15, 1888.*

**CHIP IN, To.**—To contribute money or kind; to join in an undertaking.

He was always for peace, and he would have peace—he could not stand disturbances. Pard, he was a great loss to this town. It would please the boys if you could CHIP IN something like that, and do him justice.—*Mark Twain's The Innocents at Home, p. 22.*

A man who won't CHIP IN to charity is always an object of suspicion.—*American Magazine, September, 1888.*

**CHIPMUNK, CHIPMUNCK, CHIPMONK, CHITMUNK** (*Sciurus striatus*).—The striped squirrel. The name is thought to be of Indian derivation, but philologists do not lose sight of the fact that the popular name may have a much less foreign origin. This little animal is exceedingly lively, and a great chatterer; on this account some authorities think the colloquial appellation may come from *chip*, an old English provincialism, very common in America, meaning merry, lively, etc.

**CHIPPER.**—Active; merry; cheerful; brisk; lively. "To chirp," to be merry, is an old provincialism in England.

Over the hill to the poor-house I'm trudgin'  
my weary way—  
I, a woman of seventy, and only a trifle gray—  
I, who am smart an' CHIPPER, for all the years  
I've told,  
As many another woman that's only half as  
old.

—*Will Carleton's Farm Ballads.*

**CHIP-YARD.**—A wood-cutting yard.

**CHIRAVARI.**—A noisy serenade, to which the victims of popular dislike are subjected; a custom universally known, but bearing different names according to locality. Discordant sound-producing instruments, such as tin-pots, kettles, drums, etc., are employed. The custom is known under the name of *chivaree* (pronounced chevaree) in all parts of Canada and the States originally colonized by the French.

**CHIRIMOYA** (*Annona chirimoya*).—A well-known fruit, otherwise called the CUSTARD APPLE.

**CHIRK, To.**—To put in good spirits; to become lively, cheerful. It now survives only in New England but



there *chirk* is still used both as a verb and adjective.

'Cajer,' sez she, 'I'm that burnt that I'm blind, and can't see the sunshine n'r the flowers, n'r the children no more.' An' then she bust out cryin' like she'd die. After that it seemed like she 'uz sort o' stupid, an' nothin' Cajen n'r any o' the neighbors could do 'ud make her *CHIRK* up. She jes sot there quiet, an' never said 'nothin' hardly.—*American Humorist*, 1888.

**CHIRPY.**—Cheerful, contented.

Straightway his horror softens down to a sort of *CHIRPY* contentment with the condition of things.—*Mark Twain's Screamer*.

**CHISEL, To.**—To cheat; defraud; swindle. Said to be a Western phrase.—**TO GO FULL CHISEL.**—An expression variously used according to context, in the sense of with earnestness, force, high-speed, great *éclat*, etc. It is difficult to connect either the verb *to chisel* or the phrase *to go full chisel* with the explanations ordinarily given; for example, with a supposed analogy to the quick glancing-off motion resulting from an ill-delivered *chisel* stroke. It certainly seems that the true derivation must be sought elsewhere.

**CHITLINS.**—**ALL TO CHITLINS**, *i.e.*, all to pieces, as when Sam Slick, in his *Human Nature*, says, "They did all they could to tear my reputation to *chitlins*."

**CHITTER, To.**—To call in question one's right to a thing; as "If any man in these hills considers to *chitter* him, etc.," *i.e.*, stops to question his right.

**CHIVALRY.**—**THE SOUTHERN CHIVALRY** was a common phrase before and during the Civil War. It was claimed as a proud title by Southerners and their friends, but has always been heard and used at the North with a shade of con-

tempt. In California the word is shortened into *CHIV*, to signify a Southerner.

**CHOCK, To.**—To crowd to overflowing, in which sense it is used by a writer in *Putnam's Magazine*, 1888.

What made the trunk so awful heavy, I couldn't see; but I found afterward she had all her clothes and mine, and then she'd *CHOCKED* in all 'round with maple-sugar, and that's as heavy as the ten commandments to a horse-thief.

The word is still largely colloquial.

—Hence *CHOCK-UP*, to fit closely; also used in the sense of to collapse; or to "go to pieces."

Only four ran in the mile and a half—Belvidere, Rupert, Aretino and Ten Booker. The owner declared to win with Rupert, but that duffer *CHOCKED UP* after going six furlongs, and Belvidere was compelled to go on and win.—*St. Paul and Minneapolis Pioneer Press*, July 22, 1888.

—Also the more frequently heard *CHOCK-FULL*, about which, however, there is considerable divergence of opinion. Some think it comes from the old English "*chekkefulle*," quite full; others derive it from the verb to choke, while there are yet those who incline to the view that it is an onomatopoeic expression consequent upon the "*shock*," with which scales would be sent down when overweighted. In any case *chock-full* can hardly be called an Americanism, but these theories as to the origin of the word bear somewhat on the popular usage of *chock*.

**CHOGSET** (*Ctenolabrus ceruleus*).—The Indian name of a fish which, under a variety of designations, is common along the coasts of New England and other sea-board States. In New York it is known as the *BURGALL* or *BLUE FISH* (*q.v.*), also as the *SALT WATER PERCH*.

**CHOKER.**—A New World term for the alluvial deposit which silts up at the mouths of rivers and other spots favorable, by their conformation, to the process.

That 'ere place [New Orleans] is built in a bar in the harbor, made of snags, driftwood and **CHOKES**, heaped up by the river and then filled and covered with the sediment.—*Sam Slick's Clockmaker*.

—**CHOKER OFF, TO.**—To forcibly obstruct; interrupt; repulse; frustrate. A slang Americanism which in this idiomatic sense has almost, if not altogether, passed into orthodox speech.

As usual, the call for the previous question was heard on the other side, and the members who had hoped to be heard on the momentous question were **CHOKER OFF** by Republican courtesy.—*Baltimore Sun*, 1888.

**CHOKEBERRY** (*Pyrus arbutifolia*).—A somewhat stunted appletree, the fruit of which is possessed of astringent qualities.

**CHOKER-CHERRY** (*Prunus borealis*).—A plant with astringent properties.

Our host refused to take money, invited us to come again, and following us to our boat, as a last act of hospitality, he gathered for us some **CHOKER-CHERRIES** in a thicket near the river.—*Century Magazine*, 1887.

**CHOMPINS, CHAMPINS.**—The masticated refuse of fruit after the juice resulting therefrom has been swallowed. "Champ," to chew or masticate, from the Icelandic *hampa*.

**CHOP.**—**FIRST-CHOP**—first-rate. The Chinaman has not come in contact with Western civilization without making an impress upon it. *Chop* means quality, and is frequently used in that sense by Americans.

**CHOPPING-BEE.**—In the old pioneer days a new settler would frequently

receive neighborly assistance in operations which, unaided, it would be out of his power to carry through in anything like reasonable time.

'You see, sir' [says a squatter in Ruxton's *Life in the Far West*, in explanation of the term], 'when you wants to get anything done right away in a hurry, all at oncet like, whether its flax beatin' or apple parin', or corn huskin', and the neighbors all around come and help work, that's a **BEE**.'

A *chopping-bee* is thus described in the *Western Magazine*, the occasion being one when a clearing on a large scale was required to provide a site for a public institution.

The inhabitants within a radius of ten miles were invited. Each one brought his axe and day's provisions. No spirituous liquors were allowed. The work was ordered by an elected marshal of the day. The front rank of trees, ten rods in width, were chopped partially through on either side; then the succeeding ones in like manner, for a space of perhaps twenty rods. Then the last rank were felled simultaneously by the united force, when with a crash increasing to a thundering volume, it bore down on the next, till all lay prostrate. And thus for three days did this volunteer war against the forest progress.

**CHORE.**—A small job; or work of a domestic character; an odd job; "char" in England is used both as a noun and verb in much the same sense; and, presumably, both have a common origin in the Anglo-Saxon *cyre*. *Chore* is mainly used in the plural, as "The old darkey who did the *chores*." Ben Jonson seems to have used the American form of *chores*, and J. Russell Lowell affects to trace the word to the French *jour* in the sense of a day's work; but, as the Anglo-Saxon root *cyre* has also the secondary meaning of a space of time, the latter, assuming Mr. Lowell's line of argument to be sound, would thus appear to have a double claim to recognition over the French derivation.

'James, dear, will you bring me up a hod of coal from the cellar?' said a busy wife.

'That's just the way with you. As soon as you see me enjoying myself you have some CHORE or another for me to do.'—*Boston Courier*, 1888.

—Hence also TO CHORE, and, in Connecticut, TO CHORE ABOUT, *i.e.*, to do chores or small odd jobs.

He needed somebody to do CHORES at his house; the wood had to be sawed, the cow had to be milked, the horse must be fed, and the garden attended to.—*Century Magazine*, 1887.

—CHORE-BOY.—An errand or page boy.

**CHOUSE, To.**—To cheat; to defraud. Similar in origin to such words as burke, boycott, and bogus. In 1607, a notorious swindle was perpetrated in London on some Turkish and Persian merchants by a *chiaous* or official attached to the Turkish Embassy, sent to announce the advancement of Sultan Solymán to the throne. So gigantic was the fraud, and so notorious did it become, that to *chiaous* or *chause* or *chouse* became synonymous with chicanery and swindling practices. It is now classed as slang in England, but for a long period was much used by standard English writers. In America, however, the word is still looked upon as orthodox, and is applied to all kinds of fraudulent dealing and deceit. Also CHOWZLE.

'I wudden give it to no lleyer, Jim. The lleyers'll CHOWZLE ye. Ye'd better go down ter the headquarters, an' see ef yer can't get 'em ter compermise it.'—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1888.

**CHOWDER.**—A popular dish composed of fresh fish boiled with biscuits, pork, and onions. Sometimes wine is added. *Chowder* is probably a Canadian corruption of *Chaudière*.

The man took the woman into Hadfield Crowther's saloon near by, ordered a CHOWDER for her and left her.—*Galveston News*, 1888.

—CHOWDER EXCURSION.—No picnic by the sea would be complete without this almost national dish, indeed it has given a distinctive name to some of these jaunts, in that a *chowder* forms the *pièce de resistance*. On such occasions it is cooked gypsy-fashion on the spot, with the usual fun and frolic generally accompanying such improvised culinary arrangements. —It is difficult to say upon what principle of analogy CHOWDER-HEAD is used as synonymous with a fool, dunce, or numskull; in Anglo-Chinese slang, however, *chowder* stands for a fool, and *chowder-head* may be derived therefrom, and not have any connection with the toothsome dish of a similar name.

The showman . . . grabbed the orchestra [a single performer] and shook him up, and says, 'That lets you out, you CHOWDER-HEADED old clam.'—*Mark Twain's Launch of the Steamer Capital*.

**CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS.**—A new sect, whose distinctive doctrine is that disease is all a matter of imagination. "You think you are not ill, and you get well," or in other words they claim to "heal by faith."

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE [as expounded by one of their leaders] is a metaphysical method of healing all diseases, both mental and physical, without the use of drugs, electricity, baths, braces, belts, or any other material means. It is not spiritualism, mind-cure, clairvoyance, manipulation, massage, or any form of animal magnetism. The healing power is God, as understood and demonstrated by Christ and the Apostles. It is not necessary that the sick understand its divine principle in order to be healed, though all should seek to know more of this divine power when they feel its beneficial effects. The spiritual understanding of God being lost for centuries, healing by the God-power, was also lost until at this age; it is again discovered and explained on a scientific basis.

**CHROMO-CIVILIZATION.**—An invention of the late J. R. Dennett, which, says the *Nation*, "confessedly



supplies a gap in our terms of precision." *Chromo-civilization* is a term applied to the aggregate of what is false or pinchbeck in "latter-day" society—to the gilt and tinsel, the surface polish, which, in many respects, characterizes the civilization of the last decades of the nineteenth century. It is notorious that in America chromo-lithographic prints are sent out in shoals, all displaying a remarkable want of taste as regards subject, drawing, and coloring alike—a sorry would-be substitute for the genuine article.

**CHUB.**—(1) A local name (Texas) for the TAUTAUG, or BLACKFISH (*q.v.*).  
—(2) In Connecticut a SQUASH (*q.v.*).—CHUB-SUCKER (*Catostomus storer*).—Otherwise the HORNED SUCKER. An ungainly sea-fish.

**CHUCK.**—Refreshments. Thieves' argot.

i wish i was nere you so i could send you CHUCK on holidays; it would spoil this weather from here, but i will send you a box next thanksgiving any way.—*Mark Twain's Life on the Mississippi*, p. 463.

**CHUCK-A-LUCK.**—A gambling game played in the West with dice.

**CHUCK! CHUCK!**—A call used in the summoning of pigs to the feeding trough. It is curious that though evidently a corruption of the "sug! sug!" used in Norfolk for a similar purpose, this expression differs from the ordinary cry, and yet is identical with the call employed in gathering poultry.—*See CALLS FOR DOMESTIC ANIMALS.*

**CHUCK FULL.**—Full to repletion; a colloquial variant of CHOCK-FULL.

**CHUCKLEHEAD.**—An idiot; a block-head.

Well, now, his case is curious! There wasn't a human being in this town but knew that the boy was a perfect CHUCKLEHEAD; perfect dummy; just a stupid ass, as you may say. Everybody knew it, and everybody said it.—*Mark Twain's Life on the Mississippi*, p. 473.

**CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW.**—*See* WHIP-POOR-WILL.

**CHUNK.**—A short thick piece or portion. This word, provincial in England, is thoroughly colloquial throughout the States. The *New York World* once made itself (February 14th, 1888) responsible for "a chunk of geographical knowledge"; in *Western Clearings* a "large chunk of sadness" falls upon a woman, and in another quarter, "a chunk of sentiment" is spoken of as "pitchforked into the midst of a play."—"To chunk."—"I'll chunk him," *i.e.*, throw some missile, generally a handy short piece of wood, stone, or clod of earth.—**CHUNKY.**—A derivative of *chunk*, which is probably genuinely American; the equivalent of "stumpy," and meaning short and thick. Said to have been used first by Doctor Kane, the Arctic explorer.—**CHUNKED.**—South Western. Said of a person possessed of pertinacious effrontery.—**CHUNK-HEAD** (*Trigonocephalus contortrix*).—The red snake or COPPER-HEAD.—**CHUNK-YARD, CHUNKEE-YARD.**—Both Bartlett and De Vere quoting Bartrams's *Travels in Florida*, define these as names given by white traders to oblong four-square yards adjoining the high mounds and rotundas common in the State of Florida, and supposed to have been built by the Seminole Indians. In the centre stands a mysterious obelisk, and at each of the more remote corners a post or strong stake, to which their captives were bound previous to being tortured and burnt. In another place Bart-

ram states that the pyramidal hills or artificial mounds, and highways or avenues, leading from them to artificial ponds or lakes, vast tetragon terraces, *chunk-yards*, and obelisks or pillars of wood, are the only monuments of labor, ingenuity, and magnificence that he had seen, worthy of notice. Dupratz, in his *History of Louisiana*, has established the fact that *chunkee* was the name of an Indian game, a diversion practised by warriors two at a time. It was played with a pole about eight feet long, resembling a Roman *f*; and the game consisted in rolling a flat, round stone, about three inches in diameter, and one inch thick, and throwing the pole in such a manner that when the stone rested the pole should be at or near it. Both the antagonists threw their poles at the same time, and he whose pole was the nearest counted one, and had the right of rolling the stone.—KERCHUNK!—An exclamation carrying with it no especial meaning, but supposed to represent the sound of a falling heavy body; varied also by CACHUNK (*q.v.*).

I looked up, and there I saw a young catamount, scrambling up the little, old oak; he stretched himself out on the branch and looked down upon me so kind of impudent, I thought I'd take a crack at him; I raised my rifle and down he came, KERCHUNK! right on the edge of the precipice.—*W. S. Mayo's Kaloolah*, p. 27.

**CHURCH.**—THE LITTLE CHURCH AROUND THE CORNER.—An expression taken from the popular song bearing the same title, and used in speaking of places of worship, which, though not "fashionable," are centres of really genuine spiritual activity.—**CHURCH EXCURSION.**—As implied by the term, an excursion organized in connection with a church.

The Rev. Dr. Talmage recently got off the the largest CHURCH EXCURSION to Europe ever undertaken. Over 200 members of his congregation were included in this monster picnic, as the pastor styled it. The idea of this excursion originated with Mr. Talmage, and he has overseen personally all its details, involving an amount of thought and work of which none but the practically initiated can form even an idea.—*New York Mercury*, July 21, 1888.

—CHURCH-MAUL.—A New England vulgarism, equivalent to our own slang phrase "calling over the coals," when the jurisdiction is one of an ecclesiastical character.

**CHUTE.**—(1) An inclined shaft or plane through or down which timber and general merchandize are conveyed to a lower level.

On the rocky Pacific coast there is not a spot for miles and miles where it seems possible to build a wharf or to load freight and passengers. The hardy coasters overcome the forbidding breakers, however, by bridging them with CHUTES, which are engineering and architectural triumphs. There is little choice of location as far as sheltered nooks are concerned, for there are none, but a spot is selected where deep water is nearest the shore. Occasionally a rocky mound affords help and a foundation for a tower of scantling. The CHUTE, a massive structure of timber, supported by wire cables on the suspension-bridge plan, runs from the edge of the bluff down to the tower on the little islet in one dizzy span, often over 300 feet long. From the top of the tower run more cables that suspend the continuation of the CHUTE out over comparatively smooth water. Venturesome skippers run their schooners in under these CHUTES, and firmly moored to buoys, the craft receives and discharges cargo with as much facility as would be experienced alongside the finest dock in the world. The cargo, mainly lumber, is rolled into the CHUTE at the top, and down the polished surface of the face of the CHUTE it slides with railroad rapidity until near the end, where a sort of floodgate arrangement checks the momentum just sufficient to land it on the deck. At Point Arena there is a CHUTE with 490 feet of slide, and light planks are landed on a vessel in thirteen seconds, heavy pieces, like scantling, occupying less time in proportion to their weight.

The word is French, and means literally "a shoot." *Chutes* of

various kinds and construction are known all over the Union.

The corpse of a Chinaman, sewed up in a canvas sack, was one consignment while our party was studying the operations of the *CHUTE*, and the proprietor charged the estate of the deceased 1 dol., something in excess of the regular rate, because, as he said, the corpse was liable to muss up the *CHUTE*. The friends of the departed kicked, but the edict of no dollar, no slide, brought them to time, and the coin was paid.—*San Francisco Weekly Examiner*, March 22, 1888.

—(2) A hasty confused migration, applied to men and animals in a body. Obviously borrowed from the primary meaning of the French *chute*, English "shoot"; just as one of the stations on the London Chatham and Dover Railway has been nicknamed "The shoot," on account of the steep, narrow approaches and the large number of passengers using the station in question.—(3) Along the Mississippi and in Louisiana a narrow side channel, the river in low-lying parts of the country oftentimes dividing into numerous forks, which unite their waters again lower down the course. In this sense it is often used by Mark Twain, and in the *Gilded Age*, he speaks of a steamboat approaching "a solid wall of tall trees as if she meant to break through it, but all of a sudden a little crack would open, just enough to admit her, and away she would go, ploughing through the *chute* with just barely room enough between the island on one side and the mainland on the other."—(4) A rapid; or cascade. Down these rapids timber and small vessels are floated. The river men are exceedingly deft in the management of their craft when "shooting the rapids," as it is called, the slight element of danger lending an exhilarating spice of excitement.—Hence to TAKE A SHOOT, signifying ardent

pursuit of any object; earnest study; or thorough enthusiasm in the performance of any action.

**CIDER.**—ALL TALK AND NO CIDER.—

Purposeless loquacity; or, to use an English synonym, "Much cry and little wool," the idea conveyed being the insignificance of results compared with the means adopted to obtain them. Literally, much ado about nothing.

According to De Vere this phrase originated at a party in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, which had assembled to drink a barrel of superior cider; but politics being introduced, speeches were made, and discussion ensued, till some malcontents withdrew on the plea that it was a trap into which they had been lured, politics and not pleasure being the purpose of the meeting, or, as they called it, ALL TALK AND NO CIDER.

This slang phrase is still largely used, particularly in political circles.

It's an expensive kind of honor that, bein' Governor . . . Great cry and little wool; ALL TALK AND NO CIDER.—*Sam Slick's Clockmaker*.

What we want is more CIDER and less TALK.—*Artemus Ward, His Book*.

—CIDER-BRANDY.—This is identical with APPLE-BRANDY (*q.v.*)—CIDER-OIL.—A concentrated decoction of cider and honey. Another name for it is CIDER-ROYAL, under which name it seems first to have been known.

**CIENAGA.**—A marsh. Of Spanish origin and current in New Mexico and Texas. When of small dimensions a marsh is called a CIENEGUITA.

**CIMLIN CYMBLING.**—A variety of squash. A name peculiar to the Middle and Southern States.

**CINCH.**—Used by plainmen both as a noun and verb. In saddling his



horse with the huge Mexican saddle it has to be *cinched*. To *cinch* a horse is by no means the same as girthing him. The two ends of the tough cordage which constitute the *cinch* terminate in long narrow strips of leather called LATIGOS (*q.v.*)—thongs—which connect the *cinches* with the saddle, and are run through an iron ring and then tied by a series of complicated turns and knots known only to the craft. From the Spanish *cincha*, a belt or girdle; *cinchar*, to girdle.—To BE CINCHED is also a Californian localism signifying to come out on the wrong side in mining speculations.—To CINCH also means idiomatically to have or get a grip on; to corner; to put the screw on.

Black and Blue thinks the Dwyers have a CINCH on both the great events.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, Feb. 2, 1888.

The bettor, of whom the pool-room book-maker stands in dread, however, is the race-horse owner, who has a CINCH bottled up for a particular race, and drops into the room an hour or two before the races begin.—*New York World*, July 22, 1888.

**CINCINNATI OYSTERS.**—Pigs' trotters. A curious interchange of names seems, not infrequently, to occur between fish, flesh, and fowl. In CINCINNATI OYSTERS we have flesh presented in the guise of fish; and the reverse is the case when the sturgeon is spoken of as ALBANY BEEF (*q.v.*). Amongst other examples may be quoted MARBLE-HEAD TURKEY, for a codfish. Nor, may it be remarked, is the practice confined to America. In English slang, a Billingsgate pheasant is a fresh herring; whilst a Yarmouth bloater is sometimes called a two-eyed steak; indeed many examples might be given of this strange perversion of terms.

**CIPHER, TO.**—To ponder; to think out; the transition from the pri-

mary meaning to calculate, to the idiomatic usage is obviously an easy one.

I had not seen anything yet [at a spirit-rapping *séance*] that I could by any possibility CIPHER out.—*Mark Twain's Among the Spirits*.

**CIPHER DISPATCHES.**—After the closely contested Presidential campaign of 1876, the *New York Tribune* secured a number of telegraphic *dispatches in cipher*, which emanated from the Democratic headquarters in New York. The key was most ingeniously discovered, and the *dispatches* translated and published, implicating the senders in corrupt dealings of the most flagrant nature in connection with the bribery of State-returning boards whose decisions affected the vote for president.

**CIRCLE.**—A spiritualist's term for a gathering of people assembled for the purpose of holding communication with spirits. Among the more elementary phenomena are table tipping and rapping, and as for convenience sake, a round table was, in the early days of the movement, frequently used, those present naturally sat round it in a *circle*. Later on, the term *circle* was enlarged in meaning to include all meetings at which spirit communion was practised.—**CIRCLE RIDING.**—A cowboy's term. At ROUND-UPS (*q.v.*), or when cattle are on the march, the plains are scoured for stray beasts, sometimes for fifteen or twenty miles back. This is effectually done by *circle riding*. The herdsmen scatter in different directions, returning on lines that tend to the common centre like, says Roosevelt "as if the lines of a fan were curved." Two or three of the band take shorter and larger circles than the rest; each man engaged in the

*circle riding* driving in any strays he may have come across.

**CIRCULATE, To.**—To move, or cause to move about; to travel. A vulgarism which probably arose from want of knowledge as to the correct use of the word. *To circulate* specie is good English, but for a man to *circulate* instead of to move amongst his fellows is, to say the least, questionable; at any rate it is illiterate.

**CIRCUMSTANCE.**—NOT A CIRCUMSTANCE.—Not to be compared with; a trifle; of no account—unfavorable comparison.—Another very similar phrase is TO WHIP [something] INTO A CIRCUMSTANCE, which, being interpreted, means that the thing whipped is thrown into the shade; or compares unfavorably with the object of comparison. Thus a newspaper correspondent writes, that the streets of Georgetown, Demerara, "are broad, smooth, and well laid out. Georgetown could give points to New York in its roads and WHIP IT INTO A CIRCUMSTANCE."

I took a broadhorn to Noo Orleans, and when I was paid off on the levee, I was the worst lost man you ever did see. In the middle of the thickest woods in the world WASN'T A CIRCUMSTANCE TO IT. Such crowds and crowds of people—why they warn't more'n one man in four understood a word I said.—*J. H. Beadle's Western Wilds*, p. 28.

Our system would ha' caird us thru in any Bible cent'ry.  
'Fore this onscripterl plan come up o' books by double enter;  
We go the patriarkle here out o' all sight an' hearin',  
For Jacob warn't a SUCREMSTANCE to Jeff at financierin';  
He never'd thought of borryin' from Esau like all nater  
An' then cornfiscatin' all debts to sech a small pertater.

—*Biglow Papers*.

**CISCO, CISCOVET** (*Salmo amethystus*).—The popular name of this fish is

derived from the Indian *siskiwit*. Some authorities class it with the herring, but Lanman in his *Summer in the Wilderness* takes a contrary view, and pronounces it a trout. Like the herring it is very prolific, rarely exceeds the weight of 12 lbs., and, when salted, is considered delicate eating. It abounds in Lake Ontario, where it is largely fished and pickled.

**CITIFIED.**—A New England expression for pertaining to city life.

**CITIZENIZE, To.**—To invest with the privileges and responsibilities of a citizen. This, though given by Webster, is not common.

**CITRON.**—A species of candied fruit made from the melon. The resemblance between this and the genuine article is very close.—**CITRON-MELON.**—This is the distinctive popular name of the variety of melon used in the manufacture of the crystallized fruit above-mentioned.

**CITY.**—Even in England considerable difference of opinion exists as to what constitutes a *city*. Ecclesiastical usage, which agrees mainly with the commonly accepted dictum, at least from the time of Henry VIII., decrees that a *city* becomes such when a Bishop's see is attached to it. This, however, is not the legal view, for Manchester was denied the right to the rank when its claims were based on this ground alone, and a Royal Proclamation was necessary to invest it with the dignity and privileges of a *city*. Be this as it may, a much lower standard of rank seems to hold good in America. Just as village schools have been supplanted by ACADEMIES, so the term *city* has been grandiloquently ap-

plied in many parts of the Union to the smallest collection of rude cabins, tents, and shanties, which in England would hardly be dignified with the name of hamlet. Webster defines a *city* as a town or collective body of inhabitants, incorporated and governed by a mayor and alderman, and the smallest are theoretically assumed to contain upwards of 10,000 inhabitants. This, however, is by no means the case, and many so-called *cities* contain less than a twentieth part of that number. The settlers and miners in the Western States are no doubt the greatest sinners in this respect, as all their mining camps are called *cities*; but New England is far from being free from such an abuse of terms. CITY COLLEGE (Cant).—In New York this is the grandiose name by which the Tombs are known.—CITY OF BRICK.—The town of Pullman, in Illinois.

Yesterday morning a party of guests left in Mr. Depew's private car, and were run as a special to Pullman, where a couple of hours were to be devoted to an inspection of the various features of the CITY OF BRICK.

—CITY OF BROTHERLY LOVE.—Philadelphia in Pennsylvania. This nickname is clearly derived from the literal meaning of the two Greek roots from which its name of Philadelphia is formed, *i.e.*, *Philos*, love, and *Adelphos*, a brother. Philadelphia is, however, quite as often called the Quaker City, and this cognomen is due to association with its founder, William Penn, a Quaker, and the settlement there of large numbers of that persuasion.—CITY OF CHURCHES.—Brooklyn has long been distinguished by this title; though in the first instance a mere suburb of New York, from which it is separated by the East River, Brooklyn

has so enormously increased in size and importance, that it now possesses upwards of half-a-million of inhabitants. As may be inferred, its title *City of Churches* has been bestowed upon it in consequence of the number and beauty of its ecclesiastical edifices.

—CITY OF COLLEGES.—Toronto in Canada.—CITY OF THE GOLDEN GATE.—San Francisco; also very commonly known as FRISCO, GOLDEN CITY, and CITY OF THE HUNDRED HILLS.—CITY OF MAGNIFICENT DISTANCES.—Washington; also known as the FEDERAL CITY (*q.v.*). Washington is the seat of Government, and consequently possesses many public buildings. These being built on carefully selected sites, and being isolated one from another, have given rise to its especial appellation.—CITY OF THE MOUNTAIN AND THE RAPIDS.—Montreal.—CITY OF NOTIONS.—Boston, Massachusetts. A somewhat sarcastic nickname, the allusion being partly to the thousand and one articles of utility, forming one of its staples of trade, and partly to the assumption of intellectual superiority, which rightly or wrongly is placed to its credit. Perhaps no city in the Union has a greater variety of nicknames. Amongst others are the CLASSIC CITY; TRI-MOUNTAIN CITY; and HUB OF THE UNIVERSE (*q.v.*).—CITY OF WITCHES.—Salem, so called from episodes in connection with the belief in witchcraft, which are matters of history.—CITY OF SOLES.—Lynn.—CITY OF SPINDLES.—Lowell, Massachusetts. One of the largest centres of cotton manufacture in the States.—CITY OF ELMS.—Newhaven; also called ELM CITY, from the trees of that name which beautify its public places.—CITY OF ROCKS.—Nashville, in Tennessee.



This city is built on a considerable elevation, and derives its title from the character of its foundations; it may literally be said to be built upon a rock.—**CITY OF THE STRAITS.**—Detroit, in Michigan. This city is situated upon a narrow neck of land, connecting Lake Erie with Lake St. Clair. The popular name is a somewhat rough translation of Detroit, a name which it received from its original French founders.

O'Rourke was seized with a strong desire to try his fortune in the **CITY OF THE STRAITS** and accordingly bade his wife an affectionate adieu, and left for Detroit.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, March 30, 1888.

—**CITY OF BAKED BEANS.**—A humorous sobriquet for Boston.

**CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.**—The correction of abuses in the public service, or more specifically, the adoption of a system which shall not permit the removal of good and faithful officers for partisan reasons, and which shall prevent appointment to office as a reward for partisan services.

**CLABBEK.**—Thick milk. Pennsylvania and South. Ordinarily called **BONNY-CLABBER**. This term is a survival of old English usage.

As the stranger looked straight at old Pete, and as the latter had a wart about as big as a thimble on his chin, the remark savored of personality. However, old Pete did not resent it. He was as quiet as a bowl of **CLABBER**.—*Texas Siftings*, June 23, 1888.

**CLAIM.**—Primarily a piece of unsettled and unappropriated land marked out by a settler for his own use, and generally with the expectation that when the Government, as the custodian of all national property, so requires, some sort of payment shall be made and a legal title established. Hence a piece of

land allotted to one, and colloquially a dwelling or resting place.

'You are certain you know where Jack Mayne lives?' the girl asked presently.

'You bet your life—I mean certain I do. Know his **CLAIM** like a book.'—*New York Mercury*, 1888.

'She filled a seat,' I have said. 'Well, she didn't exactly fill it, but she spread her skirts over it—**STAKED OFF HER CLAIM**, so to speak—and there is not a man in St. Louis gifted with common sense and an ordinary knowledge of woman's nature who would have had the courage to ask her to push over and share that seat with him.'—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, April 29, 1888.

—**CLAIM-JUMPER.**—In the early days of a new country, little regularity of procedure is, of course, possible in land tenure; but, nowadays the squatter or settler has to go through a regular routine when "locating his *claim*." Miners also lay out their *claims*, and, as the search for the precious metals is carried out in regions where few of the restraints of civilization are possible, this has given rise to *claim-jumping*. A *claim-jumper* is one who lays violent hands upon another man's *claim*, in plain English robs him of it, ousting him by sheer brute force. This practice has, of course, compelled many a man to fight for dear life and home. If strong enough to withstand the rough brutality of the *claim-jumper* and defend his rights successfully he is said to **HOLD DOWN HIS CLAIM**. Hence a secondary meaning of the phrase where the squatter takes, say, a dozen homesteads with their accompanying pre-emptions on speculation, expecting to get something for his "rights," fulfilling as few as may be of the government requirements. Here he simply *holds down his claims* till a purchaser can be found.

'I came to tell you to git,' said Sam Hunker as he halted before Si.

'But I own this CLAIM,' protested Si. 'I staked it out fust, and I'm a-goin' to hold it down, you hyear me!'

Hunker laughed roughly, and turned to his associates. 'Say, boys,' he cried, 'he says he haint a-goin' to git, and wants to know ef I hear him. Haw, haw, haw!' and the CLAIM-JUMPER laughed as though he enjoyed it hugely.—*The Critic*, April 14, 1888.

There is one woman in this county, White Oaks, New Mexico, who has taken, I think, a dozen ranches. At one time she heard that a man was about to move on to a CLAIM on which he had discovered a spring, but upon which he had made no improvements. She started for the place early in the morning, and arrived there a few hours in advance of him, and he found her with her dogs, children, and other goods and chattels, in possession. She pointed a shot gun at his head and invited him to leave, which, it is needless to say, he did.—*Portland Transcript*, March 7, 1888.

—To CLAIM.—In the sense of to assert or profess. This is not found in the dictionaries, but it was so used long ago. It is, however, as likely to be an Anglicism as an Americanism.

**CLAM.**—A popular name for a bivalve shell-fish, largely found in American waters. *Clams* are of several varieties, and are of great importance as an article of food, by reason of their abundance. They are also sometimes specified as **HARD-CLAMS** (*Venus mercenaria*) and **SOFT-CLAMS** (*Mya arenaria*).

—**CLAMISH.**—Happy, contented. —**See HAPPY AS A CLAM.**—

**HEN-CLAM** is the New England name for the *Macrda gigantea*.—**OLD CLAM.**—A term of abuse and reproach, equivalent to **CHOWDER-HEAD** (*q.v.*). In this connection it may be compared with the English saying "as stupid as an oyster."

No meddling old CLAM of a justice dropped in to make trouble, and so the model boy George got thrashed, and Jim was glad of it, because, you know, Jim hated moral boys.—*Mark Twain's Screamers*.

—**AS HAPPY AS A CLAM AT HIGH WATER.**—A New England proverb

of widely extended usage, but it is difficult to say on what grounds the simile is based, except it be that these molluscs are, when covered by the tide, more in their element than at low water. Anyhow the figure of speech is universally adopted as representative of contentment and happiness. "Are you happy?" says Howell, in *A Modern Instance*. "Perfect clam," replies the person addressed. — **SHUT YOUR CLAM-SHELL** is a simile more readily understood. *Clam-shell* here is equivalent to the mouth, the sense being, hold your tongue; keep your counsel. The phrase is a common vulgarity in New England.

You don't feel much like speakin'  
When, ef you let your CLAM-SHELLS gape, a  
quart of tar will leak in.

—*Biglow Papers*, ii., 19.

—**CLAM-SHELL PADLOCK.**—A name given to the fastenings used to secure the bags employed in conveying the United States mails.

—**CLAM-BAKE.**—A picnic at which the main dish is one of *clams* baked in the primitive Indian fashion. The bivalves are placed in a cavity in the ground, which is lined with hot stones, the whole being then covered with sea-weed. The result is one of the most popular dishes in the American cuisine.

'Is that the way people talk in New York?'  
'Why, yes; it's the common language of  
the City Hall and the Mayor's office. All  
our judges talk that way when they go on a  
CLAM-BAKE or a William O'Brien chowder  
excursion.'—*New York Herald*, March 25, 1888.

—**CLAM-BAIT.**—As the name implies, a bait formed of the flesh of the *clam*. — **CLAM-BANKS.**—Beds or banks where *clams* abound.

**CLANKERS** (Cant).—Silver vessels, pitchers, and the like.

**CLAPBOARD.**—A thin, narrow board with bevelled edges, used in the construction of frame-houses. These boards are from three to four feet long, and are so laid upon the roof or sides that they overlap one another. Considerable difference of opinion exists as to the derivation of the term. Bartlett derives it from "clove-board," or board made by cleaving; but Elwyn inclines to the opinion that the term may be originally derived from the thin, smooth boards called a *clapboard*, on which, in the North of England, a kind of bread is clapped, which, hence, is known as clapbread, or clapcake, and which, Kennett says, is so called from clapping or beating the oatmeal dough till it is very thin.—Hence TO CLAPBOARD.—To cover with *clapboards*.

These huts were not made of logs, but cheaply constructed, and CLAPBOARDED with slabs.—*Kimball's Was he Successful?*

**CLAPE.**—(*Picus amatus*).—A bird of the woodpecker tribe, with bright golden wings. Like most American birds, this one possesses many an *alias*, but it is universally known by its popular name of *clape* which is said to have been introduced by English colonists. Other names are YELLOW-HAMMER, FLICKER, HIGH-HOLE, YUCKER, WAKE-UP, PIGEON-WOODPECKER, and in Louisiana, PIQUE BOIS JAUNE.

**CLAPMATCH.**—(1) See CLOCKMUTCH.  
—(2) A kind of sealskin.

**CLAPPER-CREAMERS.**—Milk jugs furnished with swinging covers to exclude flies.

**CLASSIC CITY.**—Boston, Mass.—See also ATHENS OF AMERICA.

**CLATTERWHACKING.**—A factitious compound of to "clatter," and to "whack," the former of which, under ordinary circumstances, means just as much as its more grandiose compound.

**CLATTY.**—Dishevelled; untidy. A similar meaning attaches to the word in Lowland Scotch.

**CLAW-HAMMER.**—American for the coat worn in "evening dress." A few variants are given in the following quotation:—

A few days ago an anxious and troubled seeker after truth inquired if a swallow-tail coat should be worn at an informal reception. To this the editor [of a New York paper] vouchsafed a curt affirmative and then proceeded to flay alive the audacious truthseeker. 'Don't,' he thunders, 'call a dress coat a swallow-tail, or a CLAW-HAMMER, or a spade coat, but give it its proper name. It is too dignified an article of clothing to be spoken of flippantly.' This withering rebuke should stand as a warning to all those persons who fail to appreciate the dignity of the steel-pen coat.—*New York Sun*, September 29, 1888.

**CLAYBANK** (Texas).—*Claybank* color is a yellowish dun. From the color of a bank of clay.

The bare-foot Zeke waded through the stream, which was knee-deep, and set himself to beguile Britton's CLAY-BANK horse into standing still and forfeiting his liberty.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1888.

**CLAY-EATER.**—The curious custom of earth eating appears to have found followers in some of the Southern States. A sample of this strange food, as found in Java, proved on analysis to be very rich in iron, combined with a small quantity of potassa and soda, it being also soft and smooth to the touch.

We saw a little darkey yesterday, in front of our office, deliberately take a handful of fresh mud from the street and eat it with as much gusto as though it were candy. He came originally from the CLAY-EATING and turpentine district of South Carolina, and



said, 'Yes, boss; this is just as good as de clay we uster EAT in old Carolina.' Fort Smith beats the world in natural resources, and can even furnish food to those who like it, from the very mud in her streets.—*Fort Smith Tribune*, Feb. 1888.

**CLEAN.**—To CLEAN UP A HERD is, in cowboy parlance, to separate from a mixed lot of cattle all the animals under his own care. This work requires skill, judgment, and practice, as well as considerable experience in reading BRANDS (*q.v.*).  
—See ROUND UP.

**CLEAN-CUT.**—Sharp; crisp; to the point. The sermons of an American divine have been spoken of as rare specimens of clear, *clean-cut* gospel preaching of a refreshing, self-applying character.—See also CLEAR-CUT.

**CLEAN THING, THE.**—To do the clean thing is to do the thing that is morally right—a simile borrowed from that meaning of "clean" which denotes purity and freedom from moral guilt.

It would have been the CLEAN THING to say at once that no debate would be allowed, instead of professing a readiness to go into debate, and then to refuse discussion.—*Washington Patriot*, 1888.

**CLEAN TICKET.**—See TICKET.

**CLEAR CUT.**—Real; sterling; honest. Compare with CLEAN-CUT.

**CLEAR GRIT.**—(1) The right thing; honest courage; that about which no question can be raised.

I used to think champagne no better nor mean cider . . . but if you get the CLEAR-GRIT there is no mistaking it.—*Sam Slick's Clockmaker*.

—(2) In Canadian political slang a *clear-grit* is a Liberal.

**CLEARING.**—A tract of land *cleared* of wood for cultivation.

**CLEAR OUT, TO.**—To make an exit; to get away. *Clear out!* *i.e.*, Be off! is an exclamation perhaps more forcible than polite. Whether derived from backwoods phraseology or from the Custom-house, the phrase is now a common colloquialism wherever English is spoken.

**CLEAR SWING.**—To GET A CLEAR SWING is to get ample scope, or a good opportunity.

**CLEARWEED** (*Pilea pumila*).—A species of nettle, so-called from its semi-transparent stems.

**CLERGYWOMAN.**—A woman who, as the ancient phrase has it, administers "ghostly consolation"—a product of latter-day civilization, St. Paul notwithstanding.

**CLERK, TO** (pronounced as spelt, never "clark" as in England).—To act as *clerk*. The *St. Louis Globe Democrat* of January 21, 1888, spoke of one who *clerked* in a store. Western in origin, but, owing to rapid means of intercommunication, it has like most "Americanisms" become colloquial throughout the States.

Old Lady (to saleswoman)—'You don't seem to possess the patience of Job, young woman!'

Saleswoman—'No, ma'am; but Job never *clerked* in a dry goods store.'—*The Epoch*, 1888.

**CLEVER.**—A word which has distinctive and differing meanings on either side of the Atlantic. So much is this the case, that on occasion it is necessary to indicate in what sense, English or American, the word is used. Even in Eng-

land, the word has run through a whole gamut of significations, the senses ranging, from dexterous and skilful, through just, fit, proper, and commodious, down to well-shaped and handsome. In America, "smart" is more generally used in these senses, and *clever* is reserved to indicate good nature, honesty, or amiability of disposition. A *clever* man is a well-disposed man, whose disposition is kind, and who on that very account, save the the mark, is generally a fool.—Also CLEVERNESS in a similar sense. New England.—CLEVERLY.—Right; well; *e.g.*, "long life and as much happiness as you can *cleverly* digest."

**CLEVIS OR CLEVY** (French *clef*, *clavette*).

—An iron, bent to the form of an ox-bow, with the two ends perforated to receive a pin, used on the end of a cart-neap, to hold the chain of the forward horse or oxen; or, a draft iron on a plough.—*Webster*.

**CLIMATE.**—FINEST CLIMATE IN THE WORLD.—A Californian expression in reference to the climate of that State which, from its frequency, is now hardly above the level of a catch phrase. Notwithstanding this circumstance in no way detracts from the salubrious character of the climate in question.

**CLIMB-DOWN, To.**—A perversion of words to signify downward motion; to descend; come down. Commonly colloquial.

**CLING, CLINGSTONE.**—A popular name in Virginia for those varieties of peach in which the pulp of the fruit clings or adheres to the stones. Those of which the reverse can be said are called FREE-STONES.

**CLINGJOHN.** — A rye cake lightly baked.

**CLINKER-BUILT.** — A corruption of "clinch-built." Also used idiomatically to convey the idea of absolute certainty; thorough. Thus, Judge Halliburton speaks of an old *clinker-built* villain; and, comparing French and American girls, asks whether the former can show such lips and cheeks and complexions, or such *clinker-built* (well-formed) models.

**CLIP.**—A blow delivered with the fist or open palm. It is perhaps hardly necessary to point out that this is still provincial in some parts of England, as, for example, to *clip* (*i.e.*, to box) the ear. Sometimes *clöp*.

**CLIPPER-BUILT SHIP.**—A term for a ship expressly built for speed, from to clip, *i.e.*, to fly—cutting the air or waves. Though American in origin the term has ceased to be exclusive.

**CLOCKMUTCH.**—Literally a night-cap, from the Dutch *clapmuts*. A form of head-dress which, though still worn in Holland, is as rarely seen, in America, even in the most remote parts of the Dutch settlement, as is the old, curtained, coal-scuttle bonnet in England. This cap has been made familiar to English eyes through painters of the old Dutch School.

**CLOMB.**—The preterite of climb. Now obsolete in England. The old past participle, *clomben*, is also still heard in New England.

The Saviour bowed beneath his cross,  
CLOMB up the dreary hill,  
While from the agonizing wreath  
Ran many a crimson rill.

—*The American*, 1888.

**CLOSE.**—Money is said to be *close*, or as English commercial phraseology has it, "tight," when it is scarce and difficult to obtain.—To **CLOSE OUT.**—To clear out; to dispose of without reserve. A piece of trading cant.

We are **CLOSING OUT** all of our broken sizes of ladies' and gents' fine shoes. It will pay you to call and examine them, as we are bound to **CLOSE THEM OUT** regardless of cost.—*Advertisement in Troy Daily Times*, January 31, 1888.

—**CLOSE HERDING.**—A plainsman's term for the difficult art of keeping cattle together in a close body.—By a novel transference of meaning, a sheriff will talk of *close herding* several prisoners in his charge.

**CLOTHIER.**—A designation of the man who manufactures cloth as well as he who sells and converts it into garments.

**CLOUD.**—A large woollen or silk scarf-like wrap for the head. As well known in England as in the States.

—**CLOUDBURST.**—The climax of a storm.

The insignificance of man and his achievements in the world's progress are forcibly impressed upon the mind while in contemplation of these unrivalled freaks of nature. While in the valley [the Yosemite] a thunderstorm and **CLOUDBURST** occurred as if especially arranged to impress one with the magnificence of nature.—*The American Naturalist*.

—To **CLOUD UP.**—To become overcast; the sky is *clouded up* when it has become overcast. Not common and probably an individualism.

**CLUB-TAIL.**—The **SHAD**—a Carolinian cognomen derived from the swollen aspect which the tail of this fish presents at certain portions of the year, when fattened up.

**CLUTTER.**—To make a bustle; to be busy with. This word is still provincial in many parts of England.

'Can you make room for a stunhunter? Lucy Ann surveyed the professor, who smiled at the scrutiny, and then said, 'There's plenty of room; but if this gentleman be hunting minerals, there'll be a nice pair to **CLUTTER UP.**'—(*Boston*) *Sturdy Oak*, May, 1888.

**COACHEE.**—The driver of a stage-coach; a coachman. From the French.

**COACHWHIP.**—The name given in Virginia to a snake.

**COAL.**—See **HARD COAL** and **SOFT COAL.**—**COAL BARONS.**—*Anglicé* coal merchants.—See **BARON.**

The **COAL BARONS** who imagined that the strike would be settled so easily are mistaken.—*Boston Daily Globe*, 1888.

**COAST.**—To *coast* is to slide down a frozen or snow-covered hill on a sled. Proctor describes this as a method of breaking limbs very popular in America. The word is thought to be a corruption of the French *côte*. The fact of the term being mainly confined to New England and New York is urged in support of its Canadian-French origin.

As Rev. Charles R. Tenney, Lawyer O. A. Marden, and a few other friends were **COASTING** down Walnut Street last evening, in trying to avoid a collision with a passing team, the sled was overturned, and Lawyer Marden had one shoulder dislocated besides being otherwise severely bruised.—*Boston Daily Globe*, 1888.

—**ON THE COAST.**—Near at hand; hard by. Said by De Vere to be peculiar to Nantucket fishermen, who have a way of using the words *on the coast*, even when on shore, in the often very ludicrous meaning of "near at hand," and a



gallant lover will assure his lady love that if she will only fix the day, "he'll be sure to be *on the coast* with the parson."

**COAT.**—Southern for petticoat. Obviously a contraction, a similar abridgment being provincially colloquial in some parts of England; in other localities in the Mother Country ladies, when speaking of their *coats*, refer to an outer jacket or wrap.

**COB.**—The stalk of maize or Indian corn. Before the kernels are stripped from the *cob* it is often called an *EAR*. In some localities the *cob* is ground and mixed with other food for cattle. These stalks are also manufactured into pipes, much esteemed by smokers for their lightness, durability, and sweetness.

We . . . gazed in terror at the pretty jewelled fingers and white teeth opposite making short work of a very buttery *CORN-COB*.—*Chicago Times*, 1888.

**COBBLER.**—*Cobblers* are of two kinds. (1) A drink concocted of wine, sugar, lemon, and pounded ice, and imbibed leisurely through straws or slender glass tubes. *Cobblers* of all kinds, especially those yclept *sherry-cobblers*, have of course long been known in England, but the method of drinking them is decidedly American.—*See DRINKS*.

'Liquor up, gentlemen.' We bowed. 'Let me introduce you to some of the most highly esteemed of our citizens.' We bowed again. 'Now then, mister,' turning to the man at the bar, 'drinks round, and *COBBLERS* at that.'—*Notes on the North-western States*, Blackwood, September, 1855.

—(2) A kind of open fruit pie. The fruit is stewed or baked in a dish, lined on the bottom and sides with a rather thick layer of dough. A Western dish.

**COCASH** (*Erigeron canadense*).—Also called *SQUAW-WEED*. A plant used by the Indians for medicinal purposes. These names are also given to *Senecis aureus*.

**COCHRANITES.**—A rather notorious sect, who for some time scandalized the communities of the New England States by their public exhibitions. Claiming to have arrived at that state of perfection and purity usually only associated with seraphs and archangels, they proceeded to put their faith into practice before a sceptical generation, by appearing in the traditional garb of our first parents. The authorities finally stepped in on behalf of public order and decency, and put a stop to their proceedings.

**COCKLOFT** (Cadet).—The name by which the upper story in the West Point Barracks is known among the cadets.

**COCK OF THE PLAINS** (*Tetrax (centrocercus) urophasianus*).—Dodge, in his *Plains of the Great West* (p. 224), says—

This noble bird has been doubly unfortunate in its name. Audubon, in giving it the above name, intended doubtless, to signify his appreciation of the size and beauty of the bird. It was, however, a most unfortunate selection of title in that it did not catch the popular taste (which no sportsman can wonder at). Had he called it the *GREY COCK* or *SAGE COCK* or even the *PLAINS COCK*, his name would probably have been adopted; but the frontiersman is too economical of speech to adopt any such nomenclature as that bestowed, and the consequence is that the finest grouse in America is commonly, almost universally, known as the *SAGE HEN*. As the Pacific railroad has put these grouse within reach of sportsmen, I propose to do a favor to them by changing the name. *SAGE GROUSE* is most appropriate. While in no sense a mountain bird, this grouse is a lover of high altitudes. . . . He varies very greatly in size in different localities, the best cocks of some sections, being but three or four pound birds, while in other sections

they will weigh eight, ten, or even more pounds. The habits of this grouse are almost identical with those of the common barn-yard fowl. They go in packs at all seasons of the year.

**COCKTAIL.**—A drink of a very seductive character, and very popular with Americans everywhere. First is taken a wineglassful of brandy, whiskey, gin, or other spirit, to which is added a teaspoonful of bitters (mostly Angostura); this, with a pinch of sugar and crushed ice, according to taste, is then whisked briskly round, until the mixture, sparkling and foaming, nearly overruns the vessel in which it is made. It should be served "hot," as the Yankees say, *i.e.*, while still frothing and foaming. Tradition has not handed down the prescription for the "nectar of the gods," but the typical American claims to have re-discovered it in the *cocktail*; at any rate, well made, and not drowned overmuch, it is very good, and, as was once remarked, "It makes a feller wish he had a throat a mile long, and a palate at every inch of it," a saying which, if not original, to say the least, is expressive.

I never heered nothin' bad on him let alone his havin' what Parson Wilbur cals a *pong shong* for COCKTALES.—*Biglow Papers*.

**COCO GRASS.**—A weedy plague of the Southern States, which, when once fairly rooted, is almost in-eradicable.

**COCO-PLUM** (*Chrysobalanus hicaco*).—A Barbadian fruit.

**COCOS** (*Arum esculentum*).—A tuberous root, largely used as a food-stuff in the West Indies.

**C. O. D.**—Collect or Cash on Delivery. Manufacturers and tradesmen in America have organized

a system by which payment for goods may be made upon delivery. So convenient has the practice proved, that it has become all but universal, and the visits of the Express men, as the employés of the Parcels Delivery companies are called, are as frequent as those of a London postman. Hence the colloquial use of the initials *C. O. D.* to signify regularity and frequency also.

When three weeks had gone by without the regular *C. o. d.* appearance of Binks [on a visit to his betrothed], and it began to look as though he really meant it, she looked up the book and found the explanation in the inscription.—*Chicago Mail*, 1888.

**COD, TO.**—To play the fool, or to use another slang equivalent to **MONKEY** (*q.v.*).

**COFFEE (Cant).**—Beans.—**GREASED COFFEE.**—Pork and beans.

**COFFEE-TREE** (*Gymnocladus canadensis*).—Also called the **KENTUCKY COFFEE TREE**, or **KENTUCKY LOCUST**. Much esteemed, both on account of its ornamental character and its valuable wood. Its seeds are used at times in lieu of coffee (this was especially the case during the Civil War), being roasted and prepared in the same fashion as the genuine berry, hence the name given to it by the early colonists.

**COFFIN-BOAT.**—The somewhat suggestive name of a boat used at duck battues. It is a box sufficiently large to contain a man, with a deck about two feet wide surrounding it. To this deck are attached, by hinges, floating wings, which, rising and falling with whatever little sea may be on in the shallow waters of the flats, prevents the water from washing in. There is also a rim of lead around the

edges of the box to fend off the ripple from its occupant. When the gunner is in his craft, it is so arranged that it is nearly on a level with the water, being ballasted down, sometimes with iron decoys placed on the deck. An old hand, on a good day for the work, which is not a good day in the conventional acceptance of the term, when the ducks are plentiful, may by this mode practically slaughter them by the hundred.—*See* BATTERY.

**COKE IT, To.**—To drink heavily and habitually. Sometimes to COAG.

**COHEES.**—A nickname given to certain communities in Western Pennsylvania, from their use of the archaic form *quo' he*—"Quoth he," at least so says Lowell.

**COHOG.**—An Indian substitute for specie, strings of shells being used for this purpose. WAMPUM (*q.v.*) is an inferior currency; and a more costly one is obtained from the largest shells of the *quahaug* or *cohog*, a welk, known in the Middle and Southern States as the round clam, and belonging to the genus *Venus mercenaria*, so called on account of their being used as currency. The inner surface of these shells is beautifully polished, the centre of the valves pure white, and part of the outside mantle of a rich violet.

**COHOSH** (*Actaea racemosa*).—An Indian name for a well-known medicinal herb, of which there are several varieties, the best known being the blue, white and black *cohosh*. Also called BLACK-SNAKE ROOT.

**COLD.**—Used in the sense of stale; *e.g.*, cold bread is stale bread.—

**COLD DECK.**—A good hand; *cold* or a *cold deck* in poker phraseology is to get a good hand at first, without the necessity of drawing fresh cards. In thieves' slang it means a prepared pack of cards.

I never have gambled from that day to this—never once—without a COLD DECK in my pocket. I cannot even tell who is going to lose in games that are being played unless I deal myself.—*Mark Twain's* *Screamers*.

—**COLD FLOUR.**—Backwoodsman's fare—simple, modest, and rough, but withal a delicacy and nourishing. It consists of maize meal (the corn itself having been parched before grinding) mixed with sugar, and stirred into a paste with water, spice being sometimes added according to taste, to render it even more palatable. This latter is known in the Spanish districts as PINOLE.—**A COLD SCALD.**—A periphrastic term for double misfortune or trouble. The idea conveyed is that of being frozen and scalded at one and the same time.—**COLD-SHUT.**—Explained by quotation.

Out West the same trap is used [for bears], but instead of pinning it to the ground a long chain is attached, and the end of this chain is made fast around a log, with a COLD-SHUT or split-ring, such as you put your pocket-keys on, and which can be fastened by hammering.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

—**COLD SLAW.**—Cold cabbage.—*See* KOOL SLAA.—**COLD SNAP.**—*See* SNAP.

**COLLAPSE.**—A state of COLLAPSE; prostration; exhaustion. Probably little more than an individualism.

Many emigrants, arriving in that state of COLLAPSE termed flat-broke, staid at Los Angeles because they couldn't go on.—*Boston Post*, 1888.

**COLLAR.**—To WEAR THE COLLAR.—To be subject to authority; such control not being altogether to



one's taste. The meaning conveyed, as regards people and things generally, is the antithesis of that contained in "to have the whip hand"; "to wear the breeches"; etc.

**COLLECT.**—A depression in which rain water forms a temporary pond; a large puddle. A portion of New York—the neighborhood of the Tombs and Five Points—was formerly known as "The Collect" on this account. — **To COLLECT.**—A contraction for "TO COLLECT payments." — **COLLECTOR.**—One of the three principal officers attached to the U.S. Customs. Equivalent to the superintendent of the English service.

**COLLIDE, To.**—To come in collision with. Formerly confined to railway phraseology, but now anything that comes into violent contact with another object is said to *collide* with it. In spite of the objections raised to the use of this word, it has forced its way afresh into the dictionaries, for in reality *collide* is an instance of a word falling into disuse, and after the lapse of time again making its way into popular favor. Used both as a noun and verb.

**COLONEL.**—A courtesy title of all work. In the South and West especially, and also in New England, a most amiable weakness seems to exist for the appropriation (whether one has served with the colors or not) of military titles, *colonel* being one of the most popular. It is said that officers of this and other ranks are so numerous that the wonder is there are any privates. A similar laxity is observable as regards professional titles, such as judge, etc.

**COLORADO BEETLE.**—An insect pest, the name of which has, of late, become, unhappily, too familiar to English ears; it is also called the **POTATO BUG**, and is about half-an-inch long, and, in color, yellow striped with black.

**COLORLED.**—**COLORLED MAN, COLORED PEOPLE.**—Euphemisms employed to designate those in whose veins runs negro blood. The terms were most rife during the period immediately succeeding the Civil War, the result of which was to secure to the negro race the rights of citizenship, and which, consequently, enhanced the importance of the black man, especially when his influence began to be felt at the polling booth. Other terms of contempt, sickly philanthropy, or humor, as the case may be, are **NIGGERS, FREEDMEN, CONTRABAND, FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT PERSUASION, and UNBLEACHED AMERICANS (q.v.).**

There was a suppression of votes of **COLORED** citizens at the recent municipal election of Jackson, Miss. . . . The report recites the story of the suppression of the **COLORED** vote, and finds that the resolution of **COLORED MEN** to abstain from voting was due to terrorism inspired by the actions of the White League.—*San Francisco Weekly Chronicle*, July 26, 1888.

**COMB.**—**TO HAVE ONE'S COMB CUT.**—To be humbled or snubbed; to be taken down a peg after talking big; overweening pride, followed by mortification. A simile drawn from cock-fighting, and probably an American survival of a good old English phrase.

**COME.**—This verb is used in a variety of slang ways outside orthodox usage. Many of these turns of expression are, without doubt of English origin, and had their rise in the prize-ring and

cock-pit; others, however, are employed in a distinctively American fashion, but it is difficult to draw the line with any degree of precision. Among them are

—To MAKE COME, which, in the parlance of Western hunters and plainsmen, signifies to bring down game with the rifle; to make a dead shot.—To MAKE DRUNK COME.—To produce intoxication.

—To COME AROUND, or "to get around," to persuade; lure; wheedle; or prevail upon.—To COME OFF.—To occur.—To COME IT OVER.—To convince by argument.

—To COME IT STRONG.—To work vigorously; to act or speak with force. Who does not remember the Heathen Chinee of Bret Harte, the wily euchre player, "who *came it strong* with his aces and bowers?"

—To COME DOWN.—To abate prices.—To COME OUT.—To make a profession of one's belief or of religion.—See also COME-OUTERS.

—COME OUT.—"How did it *come out*?" *i.e.*, What was the result?

—To COME OUT OF THE LITTLE END OF THE HORN.—To fare badly; an obvious allusion to the thin end of the horn of plenty, the cornucopia or emblem of plenty.—

—To COME UP TO THE CHALK.—An equivalent of COMING UP TO THE SCRATCH; performing what is expected of one.—To COME UPON THE TOWN.—A New England phrase, signifying to go upon the rates, or into the union.—To COME DOWN FROM THE WALLS.—To abandon one's position; to retire.—To COME IN WITH.—To bring; bear forth; have. A Connecticut phrase.—To COME TO STAY.—When a thing is said to *come to stay*, the expression signifies permanence and stability; thus the *New York Morning Journal* announces that "earth fuel, a wonderful new discovery for cooking and heating purposes, has *come to*

*stay*," *i.e.*, its commercial success is assured.

Year after year has since rolled by,  
And now her hair is gray;  
Yet I love her still, because I know  
My love has COME TO STAY.

—Clarence Stetson.

In the realm of advertising, the illustration has evidently COME TO STAY. It attracts and retains the eye, and so serves a double purpose. A high degree of artistic ability finds employment in producing the advertisements seen in the better magazines of to-day. The pictures, in fact, compare favorably with any in the body of the magazine itself. It evidently pays to spend time and money in the employment of this illustrative art.—*Pittsburg Bulletin*, 1888.

—To COME UP SMILING.—To be impervious to rebuff or disaster; to meet defeat without flinching.—

To COME THE GUM GAME.—See GUM GAME.—To COME DOWN.—To furnish money; another slang equivalent being to stump up.—

A COME DOWN.—A fall, whether of pride or worldly prospects.—

You CAN'T COME IT, *i.e.*, cannot succeed—the phrase being a somewhat defiant expression of disbelief in the ability of another to obtain an advantage over one. A doubtful

Americanism, and probably a survival of old English usage.—

COME OUT.—"There is some *come out* in those people after all"; *i.e.*, something to admire, praise, or commend.—COME -OUTERS.—This term is generally applied to those who for some reason or another have separated themselves, or *come out*, from the religious organizations with which they were previously connected. The movement, which is large and influential both in point of numbers and the wealth of its members, is an outcome of a wave of independent thought concerning matters of faith. The creeds have been found "too narrow," men's thoughts have been "cramped by human authority," and without organizing themselves

into another sect, they profess to believe that "Christianity as it existed in Christ is a life rather than a belief."

**COMBINE.**—Associated effort for protective purposes; American *combines* are synonymous with English trades' unions.

**COMICAL.**—Used in the South for strange; extraordinary.

Dr. White, who discovered the Punccheon Run Falls, said to a mountaineer that they were a great curiosity. 'I don't see nothing kewrus about 'em,' replied the man disdainfully, 'when the water comes over the top, it is bound to run down to the bottom, and der ain't nothin' kewrus or comical in that. Now,' adding meditatively, 'if the water was to run up, you see, then I'd allow it to be a kewrosity.'—*E. A. Pollard's Southern Scenery.*

**COMMANDER.**—In New York a heavy wooden hammer goes by this name.

**COMMITTEE OF ONE.**—AN INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE OF ONE, *i.e.*, a holding the reins of office by oneself, brooking no interference.

Police Commissioner Suboff was very, very obliging in some respects. To use an American expression he was an investigating COMMITTEE OF ONE, that had to be continually lubricated. He had, however, one other weakness. He was very much given to paying his addresses to the fair sex, but he was not pretty to look at.—*Exchange.*

**COMMON.**—AS OFTEN AS COMMON, *i.e.*, as often as usual; "as well as common," *i.e.*, as well as usual.—**COMMON-DOINGS.**—Plain everyday fare; the kind of food ordinarily served. Anything out of the *common*, specially prepared dainties for a festive or other gala occasion are, on the other hand, spoken of as CHICKEN FIXINGS (*q.v.*). *Common-doings* originated in the West, being at first restricted in its meaning, but the term now includes any

ordinary transaction in contrast with those that are very large or peculiarly profitable, being applied to men, actions, and things in general of an inferior kind. "What shall we do?" says a poor frontiersman's wife, when she hears of a Federal officer who is to take up his quarters at her cabin for a day; "I can't give him *common-doings*. And thar Jim's gone away and I can't send him over to Billy's wife, or I might get up some chicken-fixings for him."

I guess I'll order supper. What shall it be? Corn-bread and COMMON DOINS, or wheat-bread and chicken fixins?—*Sam Slick, 3rd Ser.*

**COMPANERO** (Spanish).—In the bucolic dialect of the plains, a companion or partner; equivalent to the mining slang **PARD**.

**COMPASSIVE.**—Exercising pity or sympathy; compassionate.

**COMPASS PLANT** (*Silphium laciniatum*).—This plant derives its popular name from the fact of its leaves being supposed to point north and south.

**COMPLETED.**—Referring to the complexion. A new-fangled Western barbarism.

**COMPLIMENT.**—A word which, in the South-west, signifies a present.

**CANCEGEER.**—A general name applied to reptiles of the lizard and salamander species.

**CONCEIT, To.**—Equivalent to "reckon," "guess," "calculate"; to have in view; to form an idea; to think. In the sense of to think (conceptional volition) this word was formerly colloquial in England, but



is now quite obsolete, although the noun "conceit"—"a pretty conceit"—still lingers, and is used in a somewhat similar sense. *To conceit* may be regarded as a New Englandism.

**CONCERNED** (pronounced consarned). — D——D CONCERNED. — An ejaculatory expression of great emphasis.

That's a CONCERNED ugly fix, and how we'll ever get out of it is more than I know. —*Southern Literary Messenger*, 1888.

**CONCESSION.**—In Canada, a subdivision of a township bordered by a public road.

**CONCHAS.**—Silver ornaments attached to the spurs worn by cowboys and other plainsmen on high days and holiday occasions. These men are extremely lavish in personal adornment, and the embellishment of the trappings of their steeds when visiting the towns. A recent writer in *Scribner's Magazine*, touching upon caprice and fashion of this kind, remarks that the cowboy's life is so rough, rude, and brutal, that a sort of internal reaction occurs at intervals, out of which there flashes a coarse but genuine need of pleasure, gaiety, and color. At times they really surpass the most ambitious conceptions of the modern Beau Brummel in the matter of leather and prunella. Then the cowboy sets himself out, like the jay in the fable, with as small and narrow and high-heeled a boot as ever the cavaliers who followed Rupert could boast, so small and tightly pinching that it is only donned and endured on certain solemn occasions—when he enters town after a long absence on the trail. Nothing then can be allowed to interfere with the ceremony of boots; they must be worn, displayed, and exulted in,

together with their parti-colored laces in front, and the silver *conchas* outside the spur, jingling and ringing to the bronchos tread. This is indeed a glorious moment in his experience; but once out of town and far from admiring eyes, off come these terrible tormentors, to be transferred to the saddle, where he can survey them with a defiant satisfaction.

**CONCK, CONK, KONCK.**—A wrecker.

**CONCOA.**—The butter-nut. Bartlett thinks the name of Indian origin.

**CONDERIPT.**—A Kentucky phrase meaning "thrown into fits."

**CONDUCTA.**—A caravan; and often so-called in the States; of Spanish origin.

**CONDUCTOR.**—The guard on English railways. His position, however, is far more responsible than that of his English *confrère*, inasmuch as he is not only responsible for the safety, punctuality, and general management of the entire train under his charge, but he also collects the fares, and in other respects assumes a superior position.

Our new CONDUCTOR (just shipped) has been without sleep for twenty-four hours. Such a thing was very frequent.

He is generally addressed as "Captain," a sobriquet drawn by analogy from water traffic.—*See RAILROAD TERMINOLOGY.*

**CONEPATE.**—The Southern name of the skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*). *Conepate* is a corruption of the Mexican *conepatl*.

**CONESTOGA HORSE.**—A breed of horses so named from the Conestoga

River. Heavily built, of large size and great power, being a cross between the Flemish cart-horse and an English breed, these animals are still much esteemed in Pennsylvania and New York State for draught purposes; formerly, before the introduction of railways destroyed heavy wagon traffic, they were much more common than now.—**CONESTOGA WAGON.**—A covered wagon of large capacity, specially built for the powerful horses of the above breed.

**CONFECTIONERY.**—A bar-room. Southwest and West. Also called a GROCERY.

**CONFEDERATE.**—This name was assumed by those States which, in the crisis that arose on the question of slavery, seceded from the Union, forming themselves into the *Confederate States*, electing a rival President, and for seven years engaging in the most bitter Civil War the world has ever known. In Texas the word *confederate* is singularly used. There it is synonymous with the Yankee's ABOUT EAST (*q.v.*). When a Texan wishes to express the strongest possible approval of some sentiment he will exclaim "it's mighty *confederate*!"

**CONFEE.**—One conferred with; a new form, based on the same model as referee. While, however, the latter is a standard dictionary word, *conferee* has yet to establish itself. It is difficult to say where the line should be drawn in such word-making, but *conferee* seems to supply a want, and is certainly not so objectionable as some creations, such for example as TO BURGLE, or TO EXCURT.

**CONFIDENCE, TO.**—A factitious verb, derived from "confidence" as a curtailment of CONFIDENCE-TRICK. This consists in obtaining one's trust with the deliberate intention of subsequently betraying it.

The missing Hindsboro' merchant has at last turned up alive and well. He had been on the trail of two sharpers who had CONFIDENCED him, and did not leave it until one of them was landed behind the bars at Terre Haute.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, February 20, 1888.

Detectives Fitzgerald and Conners arrested Lawrence Stanley on Eighth and Market Streets, between 7 and 8 o'clock yesterday morning, on a charge of CONFIDENCING Henry Mueller, a coal dealer and contractor.—*Missouri Republican*, February 15, 1888.

**CONFIRMATE, TO.**—To confirm.

He wheeled upon the planter—"Sir, do I exaggerate?"

"Forty miles," replied the planter; "sometimes fifty."

"Friends,—CONFIRMED! more than twice-fold CONFIRMED."—*Century Magazine*, 1888.

**CONGRESS.**—The Legislature of the United States. This is constituted of three divisions—the PRESIDENT (*q.v.*), the SENATE (*q.v.*), and the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (*q.v.*). The history of Congress may be roughly divided as follows: (1) The Continental Congress, the pre-revolutionary governing body; (2) the Federal Congress, which lasted for a period of eight years only; and (3) the Congress of the United States as now constituted, and which met for the first time on March 4, 1789.—**CONGRESSIONAL.**—The labors, powers, and practices of Congress are so distinguished. — M.C.—Member of Congress.

**CONIACKER.**—A counterfeit. Evidently a play upon words.

**CONJECTURE, TO.**—Like to "reckon," "guess," and "calculate," to con-

*jecture* is always used with a kind of mental reservation. It is an ingrained characteristic of the New Englander that he rarely, if ever, ventures upon a direct statement when there is the slightest possibility of mistake. This trait has descended from Puritan times when to tell even an unintentional falsehood was regarded as heinous in the extreme. It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that direct asseveration is thus eschewed and guarded against; in other respects, however, a Yankee takes full revenge for the straight-laced and restricted notions handed down to him—his dictionary of half-veiled blasphemies being singularly complete.

**CONNER.**—The BURGALL (*q.v.*).

**CONNIPTION OR CONNUPTION FITS.**—

An American synonym for hysteria. A word common in New England and among the descendants of New Englanders in the State of New York. Also a state of collapse.

He's fixed up a putty fair sort o' organization in Dearborn, although it can't last long, simply because it's all built up on money, 'n' I don't go a cent on that kind of organizing. Still it's good enough in its way. But he made his mistake in lettin' the idea run away with him that he could skeer me into a CONNIPTION FIT with his musharoon organization. He didn't knaow me.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

**CONNUBIATE, To.**—To act in concert with; to unite with.

The last Presidential election illustrated these truths. When the machine had nominated Blaine and CONNUBIATED with Tammany and waved the shirt, every gopher politician in the band actually believed that every factor in the case had been accounted for.—*San Francisco News Letter*, February 4th, 1888.

**CONSEQUENTIOUS.**—Said to be of New England origin, but as a synonym of CONSEQUENTIAL it has now passed

into general colloquial usage, though excluded from the dictionaries. Hence also CONSEQUENTIOUSNESS.

**CONSIDERABLE.**—Used colloquially for emphasizing qualities and quantities as applied to men and things. Thus (1) such vulgarisms as "he is *considerable* of an artist," and "he is *considerable* of an author," as indicative of superior talent or popularity, are very common.—(2) *Considerable* is used in a manner analogous to SOME, or ANY (*q.v.*), in the sense of very, a good deal; as exemplified in the following quotation:—

A wet day is CONSIDERABLE tiresome, any way you can fix it.—*Sam Slick in England*.

**CONSUMPTED.**—To BE CONSUMPTED *i.e.*, in a consumption,

That lady is mighty pale complected. I'm afraid she's CONSUMPTED; she's always complaining of some misery.—*Western Sketches*.

**CONTESTEE.**—A new form on the model of lessee, legatee, etc.

Washington, Feb. 4.—The House resumed the consideration of the Lowery-White election case. Messrs. Moore of Texas and O'Ferral of Virginia spoke in support of the majority resolution, and contended that the CONTESTEE, James B. White, had failed utterly to make proof of his naturalization.—*Troy Daily Times*, Feb. 4, 1888.

**CONTINENTAL.**—An expression which, at the time of the Revolution, was much used to designate all that concerned the colonies as a whole, even before they were united into a confederacy, hence "*continental congress*," "*continental money*," "*continental troops*," and the people themselves were generally spoken of as *continentallers* or *continentals*.—NOT WORTH A CONTINENTAL DAM OR NOT WORTH A CONTINENTAL is a curious slang phrase



handed down from the times to which allusion has just been made. *Continental dam*, a term almost universally applied to the utterly valueless *continental* paper-money of those days is, nevertheless, traced back to a very different origin by James Grant White, who thinks the phrase a counterpart, if not a mere modification, of others of the same sort—a tinker's damn, a trooper's, etc., and as the troops of the colonies were called *continentallers* or *continentals* during the war, and for many years afterwards, it is probable that the phrase in question was at first a *continental's damn*, from which the sign of the possessive was gradually dropped. Passing to the general phrase *not worth a damn*, Mr. White thinks that the *damn* represents watercress, A.S., *cerse*. By transformation of the "e"—a very common occurrence, as, e.g., bird for brid, and burn for brun—it became *cres*; but for a long time it retained its original form; and a man who meant to say that anything was of very little value, said sometimes that it was not worth a rush, and others that it was not worth a *cerse* or *herse*. The transition from this, by reason of identity of sound and a love of variety, to not worth a damn is easy.

'Are you thinking of writing a letter of declination, Senator?'

'No, not at all. I am not worrying about the nomination, though. I don't care a CONTINENTAL if I don't receive it.—*Missouri Republican*, February 16, 1888.

He didn't give a CONTINENTAL for anybody. Beg your pardon, friend, for coming so near saying a cuss-word.—*Mark Twain's The Innocents at Home*, p. 20.

—CONTINENTALS.—The uniform of the *continental* troops of the American Colonies during the War of the Revolution. Used exactly as the term "regimentals" is now employed.

The knowledge of an audience is never homogenous. The Englishman, whose helmeted ancestors hang in portrait upon his walls, will know one thing, the Yankee, who contemplates his grandfather in CONTINENTALS above the chimney-piece, will know another, the street urchin in the gallery will know neither.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

CONTINUANCE.—A remand. It is obvious that this sense has, by an easy transition, come from that which signifies duration.

Boylan and Needham insisted they were innocent and asked for a CONTINUANCE. It was granted. And they both furnished bail.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, March 14, 1888.

CONTRABAND.—A term applied to negroes at the time of the War of Independence, from the fact of their being then treated as *contraband* of war. The word fell into general disuse, but was revived with a similar meaning during the late Civil War; indeed the name, applied to negroes as slaves or chattels seems at times, as is only natural, to have been in common use.

CONTRAPTIONS.—A genuine American vulgarism applied to any new-fangled, peculiar thing or idea; e.g., an extravagant form of dress, a queer and unusual manner of speech, or anything else that is new and to which the public taste is not accustomed would be spoken of as *contraptions*.

CONTRIVE.—To perform; to do. An Americanism which is, perhaps, altogether obsolete.

CONVENE, To.—To be agreeable to; convenient; suitable for. Obsolete.

CONVENIENT.—Close by; easy of access; a word which has assumed a new meaning in the United States, probably owing to Irish

influence. It is used to denote what is near at hand, within easy reach; a farm will thus be advertised as having "wood and water convenient to the house."

**CONVENTIONS.**—The different parties in counties, states, and in the nation at large usually hold *conventions* prior to important elections. Delegates are selected in the various local political subdivisions. National *conventions* are held for the purpose of nominating candidates for the Presidency. The delegates number many hundreds, and the votes are recorded as the roll of States is called from the presiding officer's desk. National *conventions* date back about sixty years. Prior to that time, general nominations were made in Washington, the Congressmen representing the two great parties meeting in caucus for the purpose. Increased facilities for travel made really national *conventions* possible, but it was many years before they attained their present perfection of organization. The following interesting details concerning *conventions* recently appeared in an American paper:—

The evolution and growth of party *conventions* demonstrate two very gratifying facts: That the American people are far more accustomed to acting together, as a great unit, than they once were; and that there is none of that infatuated personal devotion and blind reliance upon party leaders that was so marked in Clay and Jackson times. Exactly the opposite of what our fathers feared is what has happened; the larger the country grows the easier it is for its representative men to come together, and the people must initiate a political movement or they will not support it. George Washington was elected by unanimous consent, without resolution or nomination; and while the electors were not at all bound by instructions as to vice-president, they chose John Adams without serious division; the opposition to Washington's second election was so slight that it held no general consultation, and before his second term expired the people had by common consent fixed upon John Adams

and Thomas Jefferson as the natural leaders of the Federal and Republican parties respectively. They had politics then—not so heated as in 1800, but the first real contest was very animated. Four years later, by common consent, the same contest was renewed as before, but not so informally; for a regular caucus of the Republican Democratic congressmen met in Philadelphia and nominated Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr for first and second place. If the Federal party held any full caucus that year, it left no record of it; but by common consent John Adams and Charles C. Pinckney were accepted as the candidates. Not till 1844 was there so hot and personal a contest as in 1800. In 1804 the tendency was all one way; the election on the part of the Federalists was a mere form, and Jefferson was triumphantly re-elected. In 1808 the caucus was regularly established by both parties, and in 1812 it was worked for all it was worth quite as skillfully as any *convention* ever was. Not only did the congressional caucus of each party make a regular nomination, but the Legislature of New York repeated or confirmed the nomination of De Witt Clinton; yet Madison was re-elected. For sixteen years this peculiar practice of nominating by congressional caucus continued, but in Monroe's second administration the old Federal party expired. Then the Republican party split into factions—on men rather more than on principles. The congressional caucus was regularly called in 1824, but only 66 members were present out of 216; they nominated William H. Crawford, one of the first to be spoken of as a Democratic candidate; but three other candidates, Henry Clay, General Jackson, and John Quincy Adams, were soon in the field by calls from their friends, resolutions of minor caucuses, and nominations by State Legislatures. The result of this singular contest, the election of Adams by the House of Representatives, ended King Caucus for ever; it was by common consent recognized that a better method must be adopted. At the next meeting of the Tennessee Legislature, Jackson was renominated by that body; the Democrats everywhere accepted it without protest, and in 1828 he received 178 electoral votes to 83 for Adams. John C. Calhoun, as candidate for vice-president, brought all the Crawford strength to the support of the ticket, aided not a little by Martin Van Buren and Churchill C. Cambreling, of New York, who made a long southern tour for that purpose. For the next sixteen years, no matter who were candidates, Jackson and Clay were the real leaders of their respective parties, and the *convention* system was soon established much as we find it now. The first regularly called national political *convention* was that of the Anti-Masonic party at Philadelphia in 1830; there they adopted a platform, but convened

again in Baltimore, September 26, 1831, and nominated William Wirt for president, and Amos Ellmaker, of Pennsylvania, for vice-president. The striking fact about all the early CONVENTIONS was that they were held so long before the election. The first Whig or National Republican CONVENTION met at Baltimore Dec. 12, 1831, and nominated Henry Clay and John Sergeant. The Democrats met in the same city in May, 1832, and confirmed the nomination of Jackson, already made by State Legislatures, naming Van Buren for vice-president. Their next CONVENTION was as early as May, 1835, and nominated Van Buren and Richard M. Johnson. Oddly enough the Whigs did not hold a national CONVENTION for that campaign, but accepted the action of their Pennsylvania state CONVENTION, which nominated Gen. W. H. Harrison and Francis Granger. Thereafter the party CONVENTIONS met regularly. On the 13th of November, 1839, the first Abolition CONVENTION met at Warsaw, N.Y., and nominated James G. Birney and Francis J. Lemoine. In 1844, August 30, they convened again, calling themselves the Liberty party, at Buffalo, N.Y., and nominated James G. Birney and Thomas Morris. In 1848 they fused with the Barnburners of New York, and at Utica, on the 22nd of June, nominated Martin Van Buren and Henry Dodge, of Wisconsin. The latter declined; and they put Charles Francis Adams in his place. In 1852, calling themselves the Free Soil Democracy, they convened August 11 and nominated John P. Hale, of New Hampshire, and George W. Julian, of Indiana. It is a curious fact in political evolution that the latter is now a Democrat and an official of New Mexico by appointment of President Cleveland. The old party CONVENTIONS need not be detailed; but in 1856 a new one came into the field, absorbing the Abolitionists and nearly all the old Whigs in the north. This was the Republican party, which held its first CONVENTION at Pittsburg, February 22, 1856. It was informal, called by the chairmen of state committees in nine States, and only provided a plan for the regular CONVENTION which met at Philadelphia in June, 1856. For that and the following eight years every CONVENTION was memorable; but their history is too recent to need repetition here. The one Republican CONVENTION, however, which stands out in history beyond all others, was that of May, 1850, at Chicago, which nominated Abraham Lincoln. Not one element of dramatic interest was lacking; almost every man was there whom the next few years were to make eminent in statesmanship.

**CONVERSATIONALIST.**—One who converses. Colloquial on both sides

of the water, but as yet shut out from the dictionaries.

**CONVICTION.**—STRUCK UNDER CONVICTION.—To be "convinced of sin." This and many similar phrases are the outcome of the plain and simple phraseology which at first, in America, characterized all religious life.

**COODIES.**—The name of a political party which originated, in 1814, in the State of New York. A full account will be found in Hammond's *Political History of New York*.

**COOKEY, COOKERY.**—A small cake; popularly esteemed a tit-bit. Like the English pancake on Shrove Tuesday, and the hot cross bun on Good Friday, *cookies* form, among old fashioned folk, a special dainty at Christmastide, and on New Year's Day; in the latter case they are called New Year's *cookies*. The custom of preparing these cakes was so much part and parcel of the national life that people swore by *cookies*, and for the matter of that, still do so; for Bret Harte makes one of his reckless California characters say: "Don't know whar he is! He lost every hoof and hide, I'll bet a *cookey*!"—*Luck of Roaring Camp*, p. 227. Probably a Dutch survival from *hockye*. New York and New England States.

A book has just been published to instruct reporters in the use of proper phrases. We bet a *COOKEY* no reporter will ever read it. It's an insult to the profession to intimate that a reporter doesn't already know everything under the sun.—*Detroit Free Press*, March 30, 1888.

**COOK-HOUSE.**—An out-door kitchen, or on board ship, the cook's galley. In the West Indies and Southern States where houses are built



without fire-places, the cooking arrangements are generally relegated to a small detached building.

**COOLER.**—A prison; e.g., "the judge gave me five months in the cooler!"

**COOLEY** or **COULEE.**—A gully or rocky valley. A term introduced by French settlers. Every ravine short of an inhabitable valley is called a *cooley*.—See **COULEE**.

**COOLING-BOARD.**—A ghastly name given in Pennsylvania and Maryland to the slab upon which a dead body is laid out.

**COOLWORT** (*Tiarella cordifolia*).—A well-known herb, celebrated for its diuretic and tonic qualities. It forms one of the far-famed Shaker remedies.

**COON.**—(1) A curtailment of raccoon (*Procyon lotor*); one of the Opossum tribe. The name is thought to be of Indian origin (Algonquin, *aroughcun*, the scratcher), though some trace it to the French *raton*. The contraction *coon* dates from about 1840 when this animal was used by a political party as a kind of badge. Hence—(2) Coons as a nickname for the Whigs, who, during Henry Clay's time, had thus appropriated the emblem. In the campaigns of that day raccoons were painted on banners, and live specimens were frequently borne in processions. The Whig policy was denounced as **COONERY**, which, said a writer in the *Boston Post*, "must fall with all its corruptions and abominations, never more to rise." The epithet was thought by opponents to ybe all the more forcible, no doubt, because so suggestive of the known character of the animal, which moves in a

somewhat oblique and sidelong manner, and is up to all sorts of shifts in self-defence.—Hence, also, the ludicrous corruption of **SHE-COONERY**, for chicanery, not uncommon in the South, and expressive of a kind of mild and feminine whiggery.—A **GONE COON** represents a man in a serious or hopeless difficulty. This Western phrase is, of course, drawn from the idea of a *coon* which has been treed.—**COON'S AGE.**—A long period, as, "he's been gone away this *coon's age*." The origin and application of the simile is by no means self-evident.—**TO GO THE WHOLE COON.**—Equivalent to the English slang phrase, "to go the whole hog."

**COONER.**—Southern for "canoe."

**COONERY.**—See **COON**.

**COONTIE.** (*Coontie adha* or *Coontie chatta*).—A preparation of arrow-root (*Zamia integrifolia*). Florida. The mode of manufacture employed by the Indians is similar to that observed in the case of **CASSAVA** (*q.v.*).

**COOP.**—To **COOP VOTERS** is to collect them as it were in a *coop* or cage, so as to be sure of their services on election day. Liquor dealers are the usual "coopers" for obvious reasons.

**COOT.**—A small water-fowl. The American variety differs considerably from its European namesake.—**POOR COOT.**—A weak-minded, stupid person; a simpleton. In this connection "as stupid as a *coot*," is provincially proverbial in England.

He was debarrd the rude heraldry of a nickname of achievement, and in a camp

made up of Euchre Bills, Poker Dicks, Profane Pete, and Snap-shot Harry, was known vaguely as 'him,' Skeesicks, or that coot.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

**COPPERHEAD** (*Trigonoccephalus contortrix*).

—A deadly snake, the venom and noisomeness of which have more than once furnished a contemptuous sobriquet in American history. The reptile itself is known under different names in various parts of the country—COPPER BELLY, CHUNK HEAD, RED VIPER, ADDER, DEAF ADDER, RED ADDER, RED EYE, and DUMB RATTLESNAKE, the last name, probably because, unlike the rattlesnake proper, it does not give warning before it strikes.—As a nickname *copperhead* was first applied to the Indian; it subsequently descended to the Dutch colonists, Irving having frequently used it in his *History of New York*. Its latest application, however, was when, during the Civil War, the epithet was bestowed upon certain anti-war Democrat Northerners who sympathized with the cause of the South. The aptness of the name is apparent when the nature and habits of the *copperhead* proper are borne in mind—its deadly character and the absence of warning before discharging its venom. The term is still often met with in the press.

Gay was executed, I think, in November, 1862, at Indianapolis. He was twenty-nine years old, and had been a school teacher in Southern Indiana previous to enlistment, and was a member of the Knights of the Golden Circle, and a virulent COPPERHEAD. . . . While in the hospital at Richmond, Ky., he took the oath of allegiance to the Confederacy, which other Federal soldiers there did not do. He did it because it was in harmony with his views, which then prevailed in that benighted and COPPERHEAD stricken portion of Indiana.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, March 2, 1888.

April 10, 1864.—Unusual agitation all around concentrated here. Exciting times in Congress. The COPPERHEADS are getting furious, and want to recognize the Southern Confederacy.—*Walt Whitman's Diary in Century Magazine*, October, 1888.

—Hence COPPERHEADISM, to represent secret sympathy with the opponents of the party to which a person ostensibly belongs.

**CORAL-BERRY** (*Symphoricarpos vulgaris*).

—The Indian currant, a native of Missouri.

**CORD**.—(1) A measure of wood for domestic purposes, as "a cord of wood." Wood thus sold is called CORD WOOD.—(2) In the West "a large quantity" and not merely a cord. The enlargement of the term is probably due to the plentiful supply once so common in those regions.

Woodcraft is the art of selling an ex-urbanite half a cord of chestnut for a cord of hickory, when he is new to the rural districts.—*Puck*, August, 1888.

**CORDELLE**.—A Western name of French origin for a tow-line. Also —TO CORDELLE; to propel by means of a tow-line.

**CORDUROY ROAD**.—A rough kind of road consisting of logs laid side by side; usually found in swamps and low-lying marshy ground.

I had to cross bayous an' criks (wal, it did beat all natur'),  
Upon a kin' o' CORDEROY, fust log, then  
alligator;  
Luck'ly, the critters warn't sharpshot; I guess  
'twuz over-ruled  
They'd done their morning's marketin' and  
gut their hunger cooled.

—*Biglow Papers*.

The reader will not fail to note the subtle art which brings out and intensifies the writer's repetition of the word "diddle"—a word as stirring as a ride over a CORDUROY ROAD.—*Mark Twain's Screamer*s.

—TO CORDUROY.—To construct roads of the above mentioned description.

**CORN**.—Maize; Indian corn. Americans never employ this word corn

in the sense in which it is used in England. English *corn* stuffs are, in America, called grain. It is curious to note that, though it sometimes includes other varieties, the word *corn* is primarily and principally applied, in the idiom of any given country, to the staple cereal, as for example, wheat in England, rye in Germany, oats in Sweden, and MAIZE (*q.v.*) in America.

—CORN-BALLS.—A sweetmeat made of POP-CORN (*q.v.*), and molasses, very similar to English hard bake and almond rock.

CORN-BASKET.—A large basket for carrying maize.

—CORN-BLADE.—The leaf of the maize plant. In some parts of the country the leaves are dried and stacked for use as fodder.

—CORN-BREAD.—Maize meal bread which is unfermented with yeast.

—CORN-BROOMS.—Brooms made of the tops and dried seed stalks of the maize plant.

CORN AND COB MILL.—A mill for grinding together the kernel and spike of Indian corn.

—CORN-COB.—CORN-COB SHELL.—

A weapon of offence which came into vogue during the Civil War. These shells were made by taking the pith out of the cob of a full ear of corn and replacing it with powder. A short fuse was inserted and the hole plugged. It will be seen at a glance that this was a weapon of offence not to be despised. It exploded with a report equal to that of a musket, and the grains flew in all directions with stinging force.

Soon after that disgrace a party of the boys prepared a lot of grenades—CORN-COB SHELLS they called them—and determined to storm head quarters.—*American Paper*, 1888.

—CORN-COB PIPE.—A pipe manufactured from the maize cob—sweet, light, and durable, and a favorite with smokers.

Lazar returned to the house, knocked the ashes out of his pipe and refilled it. Then with some difficulty he succeeded in taking a live coal from the ashes: holding it in the leathery palm of his shaking left hand, he got it deposited at last on the CORN-COB BOWL OF HIS PIPE.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

—CORN-CRIB.—A structure in which the dried ears of maize are stored. It is built so that the air can circulate round and through it, being raised from the ground, and having open sides of lattice work.

—CORN-CUTTER.—A machine similar to a chaff-cutter, and used for chopping up stalks of maize.

—CORN-DODGER.—A hard-baked cake made from Indian corn, so named from a tendency to burst when subjected to heat, very similar to POP-CORN (*q.v.*).

He opened a pouch which he wore on his side, and took from thence one or two CORN-DODGERS and half a boiled rabbit, which his wife had put up for hunting provisions.—*Mrs. Stowe's Dred*, vol. ii, p. 170.

—CORN-FED.—A woman is popularly said to be *corn-fed* when stout and plump—an allusion to the nourishing qualities of this kind of food.

—CORN-FIELD SCHOOL.—The old-time school-house of the South, in which the education received was of a very primitive type, and very different from the public school system now prevailing throughout the Union. Thus a self-made man will boast of his old *corn-field school* training.

—FLINT-CORN.—One of the many varieties of maize which, says Beverley, in his *History of Virginia*, looks smooth and as full as the early ripe corn; the other has a larger grain and looks shrivelled, with a dent on the back of the grain, as if it had never come to perfection; this they call *she-corn*. This is esteemed by the planters as the best for increase.

—CORN-FODDER.—Maize sown broadcast and left to take care of



itself. Used as fodder for cattle, both in the dried and undried state.

—CORN-FRITTER.—A dish composed of batter and grated green maize.—CORN-HUSK, or CORN-CHUCK or CORN-SHUCK.—The outer leaves surrounding the ear of maize.—CORN-HUSKING or CORN-SHUCKING.—See HUSKING BEE.—CORN-HOUSE.—See CORN-CRIB.

No one would suspect that a well-timbered CORN-HOUSE had been the cause of much litigation, and even now looked, when you come to know its story, as if it stood on its long, straight legs, like an ungainly top-heavy beast, already to stalk away when his position became too dangerous.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

—CORN-JUICE.—A Western term for whiskey.

Don't run to dress—of all the orts with which the airth is strewed  
The most concerned useless thing is what they call a dood,  
An' don't be for ever loafing whar the CORN JUICE flows.

—*Detroit Free Press*, May, 1888.

—CORN-MEAL.—Maize meal.—

CORN-MILL.—A mill for grinding Indian corn; compare with CORN AND COB MILL.—CORN-OYSTER.—similar to corn-fritter; the taste of this dish is supposed to be like that of the oyster.—CORN-PONE.

—A tin-baked maize-meal bread, enriched with milk and eggs.—

POP-CORN.—A very popular dainty, for the manufacture of which a special, small, dark variety of maize is used. The grains are placed on a heated shovel or held in a wire-gauze over a brisk fire, till they pop open, swelling to great size, and in the act of bursting, expose the snowy white inside, thus presenting a pleasing appearance in harmony with their attractive odor. Popcorn is eaten with salt or sugar.—CORN POPPER.—A sieve-like utensil for making POP-CORN (*q.v.*).—CORN RIGHTS.—The title under which

land was acquired in the early days of settlement. He who planted an acre of corn acquired a title to 100 acres of land.—CORN-STALK.—The stalk of the maize plant.—CORN STALK FIDDLE.—A toy made by loosening the external fibre of a corn stalk and placing a fiddle bridge under each extremity. This is capable of producing a few dull sounds by each vibration.

Ole Nashville dey say is a very nice town,  
Dar de niggers pick de cotton till de sun goes down;

Dey dance all night to de ole banjo,  
Wid a CORN-STALK FIDDLE and a shoe-string bow.

—*Negro Melodies*.

—CORN TRASH.—See CORN HUSK.

—CORN TASSELS.—The graceful feathery flower of the maize plant, the ornamental effect of which, in conjunction with the long leafy blades, has supplied the basis for what has been called the American style of architecture.

I heard the bob-white whistle in the dewy breath of morn,  
The bloom was on the alder and the TASSEL on the CORN.

I stood with beating heart beside the babbling Mac-o-chee,  
To see my love come down the glen to keep her tryst with me.

—*Texas Siftings*, 1888.

—Numerous as are the special terms to which this valuable plant has given rise, the slang phrases also derived from it are hardly fewer in number; one very curious is—TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE CORN.—To confess to a mistake; or, in other words, to "own to the soft impeachment." It also implies an acknowledgment of having been outwitted. Several versions are given as to the origin of the phrase, of which two will suffice. The first, as related by the *Pittsburg Commercial Advertiser*, is as follows:—

Some years ago, a raw customer from the upper country determined to try his

fortune at New Orleans. Accordingly he provided himself with two flat-boats—one laden with CORN and the other with potatoes—and down the river he went. The night after his arrival he went up town to a gambling-house. Of course he commenced betting, and his luck proving unfortunate, he lost. When his money was gone he bet his truck; and the CORN and potatoes followed the money. At last, when completely cleaned out, he returned to his boats at the wharf; when the evidences of a new misfortune presented themselves. Through some accident or other, the flat-boat containing the CORN was sunk, and a total loss. Consoling himself as well as he could, he went to sleep, dreaming of gamblers, potatoes, and CORN. It was scarcely sunrise, however, when he was disturbed by the child of chance, who had arrived to take possession of the two boats as his winnings. Slowly awakening from his sleep, our hero, rubbing his eyes and looking the man in the face, replied: 'Stranger, I ACKNOWLEDGE THE CORN—take 'em; but the potatoes you can't have, by thunder!'

The other version, as given by De Vere, is that the Hon. Andrew Stewart claims to have caused its first appearance in this wise:—

In 1828, he was in Congress discussing the principle of Protection, and said in the course of his remarks, that Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky sent their hay-stacks, corn-fields, and fodder to New York and Philadelphia for sale. The Hon. Charles A. Wickliffe, Kentucky, jumped up and said, 'Why, that is absurd; Mr. Speaker, I call the gentleman to order. He is stating an absurdity. We never send haystacks or cornfields to New York or Philadelphia.' 'Well,' said I, 'what do you send?' 'Why horses, mules, cattle, hogs.' 'Well, what makes your horses, mules, cattle, hogs? You feed a hundred dollars' worth of hay to a horse, you just animate and get upon the top of your haystack, and ride off to market. How is it with your cattle. You make one of them carry fifty dollars' worth of hay and grass to the Eastern market; how much CORN does it take at thirty-three cents per bushel to fatten it?' 'Why, thirty bushels.' 'Then you put that thirty bushels of corn into the shape of a hog, and make it walk off to the Eastern market.' Mr. Wickliffe jumped up and said: 'Mr. Speaker, I ACKNOWLEDGE THE CORN.'

Just as he passed in front of me I caught his eye, and he stopped the whole procession and said, 'God bless my soul, isn't that Dan Linahan?'

I ACKNOWLEDGED THE CORN, and he called me up to him and shook hands.—*Missouri Republican*, January 25, 1888.

—ALL FOR CORN.—A synonym for sincerity; honesty; and good intention; "he took it *all for corn*," i.e., equivalent to "he took it all for gospel."

CORN-CRACKER.—A sobriquet for a Kentuckian. Also the name in North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and other Southern States for a poor white.

—CORN-CRACKER STATE, Kentucky; another name is the BEAR STATE, an epithet which is also applied to Arkansas.

CORNEL-TREE (*Cornus florida*).—The common dog-wood. A useful timber tree, which, in the early spring, flowers profusely, its snow-white blossom being replaced in the autumn with brilliant scarlet berries. This is not to be confounded with the POISON SUMAC (*Rhus venenata*), which also is popularly designated dog-wood.

CORNER.—A commercial phrase now pretty generally used by all English-speaking people. Properly "to have a corner," is to purchase a larger quantity of stock or other commodities than is really on the market; colloquially, it appears to be used in the sense of having the command of, or taking first place in, as for instance, when the *Daily Inter-Ocean* (March 13, 1888), speaking of Mr. Donnelly the Shakspeare-Bacon controversialist, says that:—

In appearance, he is a trifle odd. He doesn't use hair restorative to any noticeable extent. Homeliness of feature he has a CORNER on, and he has ceased growing at five feet two inches.

Men in the sugar trade were excited yesterday over a report that the members of the Sugar Trust had decided to ship large quantities of the best refined sugar to London, in order to keep up the prices of the refined article in this country by relieving the market here of any surplus, and creating a

shortage, or what would practically be a corner in sugar.—*New York World*, Feb. 14, 1888.

—To CORNER.—To operate as described above.—CORNER-LOT.—Most building plots, especially of late years, are laid out in squares; the corner-lots are naturally much sought after.

**CORNER-TREES.**—Trees which mark the boundary lines of homesteads, claims, etc. In the early days it was frequently the practice to mark off tracks of land by blazing certain trees at the corners, such landmarks being termed *corner-trees* or *corners*. Also WITNESS TREES (*q.v.*).

**CORN-SNAKE** (*Coluber guttatus*).—A snake which frequents the corn-fields of the South.

**CORP.**—A Pennsylvanian corruption of "corpse."

**CORPOROSITY.**—The human body. A Pennsylvanian idiom.

His CORPOROSITY touches the ground with his hands in a vain attempt to reach it.—*J. C. Neal's Charcoal Sketches*.

**CORRAL.**—Literally a circular enclosure into which horses and cattle are driven for safety or other purposes. On the plains to corral means the difficult art of keeping cattle in a compact body, for the purpose of fending and feeding them; and from this primitive usage its multitudinous senses are derived. From the Spanish *corro* a circle. Colloquially extended in meaning in many ways, with its corresponding verb to corral, it partakes largely of the nature of slang; thus a society belle at a ball, when asked to dance, will reply that she has been *corralled* by so-and-so for the dance

in question; or a Western parson performing the marriage ceremony, when asking if any cause is known why the couple before him "shouldn't make the play," will bid the bystanders "squeal right at that stage of the game, or corral their jaws for evermore." When personal sympathy has been enlisted upon any subject, the person extending it is said to have been *corralled*, or if the plainsman is overtaken by a blizzard, he speaks of himself as having been *corralled*, and so on.

It was evident that they [the Indians] could not understand what such a large party was doing on the prairie, and we did not take the trouble to inform them. When we camped we took extra precaution to CORRAL the wagons and hobble the stock. As soon as it grew dark the red-skins began to light signal-fires, and by this means we could see that the country swarmed with them.—*San Francisco Weekly Examiner*, February 23, 1888.

**COSOUSE** !—An onomatopoeitic word representing the fall of a heavy body into water.

After a fashion I got to my dug-out, with no weapon along but the paddle. Snags were plenty. I felt strong as a boss too; and the dug-out hadn't leaped more'n six lengths afore—co-souse I went!—the front end jest lifted itself agin a sawyer and emptied me into the element.—*Robb's Squatter Life*.

**COTBETTY.**—A mollycoddle. *Cotbetty* is thus applied in the North and East. Authorities unite in thinking the word of English origin. It is probably a compound of "cot," an effeminate, troublesome man, and "betty" with the same meaning.

**COTTON.**—KING COTTON; COTTON IS KING !—Both phrases were significantly used by Southerners before and during the Civil War, their belief being that the cause of the South would finally triumph by



reason of the vast stake at issue, as represented by the staple of the South. Among other special terms to which the cultivation of cotton has given rise may be mentioned—COTTON-BAGGING, or BAGGING, a material used as an outside wrapping for cotton bales.—COTTONDOM.—The region in which cotton is grown; also COTTONIA.—COTTONOCRACY.—A term applied to Boston cotton merchants.—SEA-ISLAND COTTON.—A variety of the plant which has now gone out of cultivation, having been replaced by what is known as UPLAND-COTTON.—COTTON-MOUTH.—A deadly snake found in Arkansas, and thought to be the same as the Moccasin snake.—COTTON-WOOD TREE (*Populus monilifera*).—The ALAMO of New Mexico and Texas.

Placid as a Minnesota lake in summer time, the Missouri glides along between banks shaded by cotton-woods.—*Century Magazine*, 1887.

—TO HAVE THE COTTON-WOOD ON ONE.—To have an advantage over.

Shoo! Say, you jess keep quiet 'bout twenty minits! I'll go home an' bounce de new wife an' take de old one back, an' make all up wid her! I jess reckoned she was blowin' around, an' yere she's HAD DE COTTONWOOD ON ME all de time! Shoo! Gin me twenty minits an' look out fur splinters!—*Detroit Free Press*, Nov. 3, 1888.

—COTTON ROCK.—A variety of lime-stone, so-called probably because its light gray or buff color, when first bared to the light, somewhat resembles fresh gathered cotton-wool; it is a Magnesian lime-stone, abounding in Missouri, and is valuable as a building material, because of its softness when first quarried.—COTTON-SEED OIL.—The oil of the cotton-seed, a product mainly used for adulteration purposes. A large proportion of the so-called olive oil is said to be

nothing more than cotton-seed oil. The industry is a large one.

The committee arranged to investigate the COTTON-SEED OIL trust this morning, and at the hour for beginning the proceedings some of the members of that trust were in attendance.—*New York Evening Post*, Feb. 24, 1888.

COUGAR (*Felis concolor*).—This animal is the same as the CATAMOUNT (*q.v.*) and panther.

Also called [says Dodge] the MEXICAN LION, CALIFORNIAN LION and MOUNTAIN LION. He is an habitual resident of many rough and broken parts of the plains. He is shy, spending his days in thick cover, and prowling like a huge cat at night. His senses are very acute, and it is exceedingly rare that one is seen; and the hunter might easily be forgiven for disbelieving the existence of such an animal, were it not that the prints of his footsteps in the vicinity of the camp show plainly when and where he has been prowling.

COULEE or COULIE.—A term applied in many of the states to any dried up creek or narrow rocky valley.

They (bears) will creep along beneath the underbrush in the sides of the canyons and COULEES, and when a cow or an ox, or anything else comes along, spring upon it and dash it to the ground with terrific force, and then with one blow of their paw or bite crush its skull to pieces. I have seen numbers of cattle killed that way along the sides of the mountains.—*Nashville American*, 1888.

COUNCIL-FIRE.—Among the Indians questions which concern the tribe at large are discussed around the council-fire, lit in the middle of the encampment. Now becoming, if not quite, a thing of the past, the white man's whiskey and vices rendering the few red-men still remaining on the American continent quite incapable, as a rule, of taking care of themselves, much less advising and directing others. The U.S. Government exercises a "paternal control" over the red-man in the Indian reservations. Now colloquial.

A thousand warriors bore in war

The token of my sires :

On all the hills were seen afar

Their blazing COUNCIL-FIRES !

—*Bryant's Last of the Red Man.*

Democrats, freemen ! keep your COUNCIL-FIRES brightly burning. Let no one remain listless, or in doubt, or hesitate ; push on your columns, rout the coons, beat them, overwhelm them, and let the welkin ring with the soul-stirring tidings that Massachusetts is safe—free from the curse of whiggery.—*Boston Post*, 1888.

**COUNCILMANIC.**—Pertaining to the affairs of a council.

There is less interest taken in the COUNCILMANIC elections, perhaps, than has been known for some years past.—*Philadelphia Press*, January 29, 1888.

**COUNT, To.**—A verb synonymous with "to guess," "to reckon," "to calculate." The idea conveyed is that of expectation with power to perform.

**COUNTERBRAND.**—A verb and noun used by cattle men. The *counterbrand* is a duplicate mark placed upon cattle when sold ; this destroys the force of the original mark. The operation is called *counterbranding*.—See **BRAND**.

**COUNTRY-JAKES.**—Country-folk ; equivalent to the English "country-joskins" or "country-bumpkins."

**COUNTRY-MERCHANT-TRICK.**—A variation of the confidence game.

When the police learned that he had attempted to raise fifty dols. on a check at Shapleigh's, the conclusion was reached that he was working the old-time COUNTRY-MERCHANT-TRICK, but whether he succeeded in getting any of the checks cashed is not yet known.—*Missouri Republican*, February 24, 1888.

**COUNTY HOUSE.**—The poor-house ; the union.

An exceedingly singular character has just died in the Hillsdale COUNTY HOUSE. For

many years fair Aunt Abbie Munson, a spinster, has tramped over the county, having no definite habitation and unwilling to conform to the restriction of relatives and refusing all proffered assistance from the authorities. At the age of eighty, she was forced to go to the COUNTY HOUSE.—*Philadelphia Press*, January 29, 1888.

**COUP.**—GIVING THE COUP.—This, says Dodge in his *Plains of the Great West* :

Is a very curious and unexplained custom among the Northern plains tribes. How it originated is not known, but the term indicates that it was, at least, named by the old French trappers, predecessors of the Hudson Bay Company. When a foe has been struck down in a fight, the scalp belongs to him who shall first strike the body with knife or tomahawk. This is the *coup*. If in a *melee* or running fight a warrior kills an enemy, he, in order to secure his proper recognition and reward, must rush at once on the prostrate body, and strike his *coup*, regardless of other enemies that may be at hand. This, of course, renders the Indian less formidable. The enemy being in full flight, a brave and skilful warrior who would press on and on, adding victim after victim to his list, would return at last to find the scalps of all the enemies killed by his hand at the girdles of laggards in the race, to each of whom would be accorded all the honors due to one who had killed his man. While he who took all the risks and did all the killing, and who, in his eagerness to kill, may have passed even the last of his victims, has nothing whatever to show for his gallantry, and is consequently without honor or credit, the cowardly shirk, far in the rear, gained all the glory and applause. The consequence is that, when a foe falls, the slayer, even in the hottest race, and though other victims are at his hand, must, to obtain the proper recognition of his act, at once give up all thought of further killing, make his *coup*, and take the scalp.

**COUPLE.**—In Pennsylvania *couple* is equivalent to "a few."

**COURSE.**—A term, supposed to be of Indian origin, for the leather cover which, in the West, is used to protect the saddle in wet weather. A ranchman's word.

**COURT.**—In New England a legislative body composed of a House of

Representatives and a Senate.—**COURT-HOUSE.**—A curious usage prevails in Virginia, and partially in South Carolina and Maryland, of designating the county-town as the *Court-house* of the county in question; as, for example, if the practice prevailed in England, Guildford, the county town of Surrey, would be called "Surrey *Court-house*," and not Guildford. This custom applies mainly to official documents; thus, Fairfax *Court-house* (Providence) and Culpeper *Court-house* became famous in the late Civil War, while the real names of the towns are utterly unknown to history.—**COURT OF ASSISTANTS.**—A court formerly in existence in New England, where a magistrate or an *assistant* presided. These courts were subsequently merged in the County Court.

**COUSIN SAL.**—See AUNTIE EXTENSION.

**COVE.**—A term taken from sea phraseology to indicate narrow strips of pasture land, running into forest. Also, in the Catskill Mountains, a narrow passage or pass.

**COVERCLIP.**—A New York name for the sole. An equally curious appellation for this fish is CALICO.

**COVERED INTO THE TREASURY.**—A cant official phrase, expressive of the transfer of an unexpected balance of an appropriation back into the Treasury, and the final balancing and cancelling of the account. The phrase was originally "covering [the item in a balance-sheet] by a transfer of the amount into the Treasury." The words "by a transfer of the amount" were gradually eliminated, leaving the phrase as it stands—a puzzle to many. When introduced,

"to cover in" was seized upon and used in many parallel ways—very few, however, being aware of the real meaning of the phrase.

**COVERLID.**—A bed covering; a counterpane. From the French *couvre-lit*.

**COW.**—As a prefix this enters largely into peculiarly American terms.—**COWBERRY** (*Viburnum lentago*).—A small insipid cranberry called CERISES by the French-Canadians.—**COW-BIRD** or **COWPEN-BIRD** or **COW-BLACKBIRD.**—A species of BOBOLINK. So called from its habit of searching for food among the droppings of cattle.—**COWBOY.**—Now applied exclusively to Western herdsmen, but originally to the Tory partisans of Westchester County, New York, during the Revolution; and in 1861 to semi-secessionists in New England. In the latter sense COWBOYISM was used as indicative of the spirit and practices of these partizans whose treatment of opponents was barbarous and ruffianly. It is probable the term was perpetuated as a name for cattle-herders in Texas and the far West because descriptive of their real or alleged rough manners and customs; the fraternity more generally term themselves COW-PUNCHERS (*q.v.*).

When the branding season comes and we are fussing,

We are fussing,

And the cows are taking fences on the run,  
On the run.

And when Circle Bar [a particular brand]  
as usual is a-cussing,

Is a-cussing.

Then the cowboys' lot is not a happy one,  
Happy one.

Notwithstanding his bad reputation, the *cowboy* as he is, to judge from the descriptions of friends, is a not altogether unworthy member



of society; and, to tell the truth, the popular estimate much maligns a body of men who, save under exceptional circumstances, are quiet, self-reliant, frank, and hospitable. The many suffer for the sins of omission and commission of the few. Rough, they undoubtedly are; but, for this, their occupation is mainly responsible; which, though healthy, is varied by a good deal of hardship and anxiety. The following extracts from an article, written by W. Lynn Wilson in one of the American papers, presents a bird's-eye view of a *cowboy's* life:—

Our ranch, which is considered one of the finest in Northern Wyoming, is situated on the south fork of Powder River, which runs through it in a winding course. The house, stables, and other outbuildings are situated in a valley, inclosed on one side by a high ridge covered with small pines, and on the other sides by gently rising hills. The house is built of logs, the interstices being filled in with plaster. The roof is made of boards covered over with tar paper, over which is laid a layer of earth eight inches thick, and, although there have been a great many heavy storms lately, it has not leaked a drop. The floor is made of boards painted brown. There are five rooms—a sitting-room, two bed-rooms, dining-room and kitchen, and the work hands have a separate house to sleep in. The stables, blacksmith's shop, chicken house and storehouse, are likewise built of logs with a dirt roof. Behind the stable is the horse corral [see CORRAL], a circular plat of ground surrounded by a fence with a snubbing post in the centre, into which the horses are driven when we wish to rope or lasso them for use. Behind the house is a large patch of garden ground, in which we grow all kinds of vegetables, and on another part of the ranch we grow several fields of oats. *Cowboys* must be strong, able-bodied men, capable of enduring all kinds of hardship and privation, and should also be patient, shrewd, and enterprising. The fare is plain and substantial, and where a ranchman keeps pigs and chickens and has a vegetable garden he can have it sufficiently varied. Many of them, however, live on salt pork, canned goods, and bread, and do without both milk and butter; but this is inexcusable, as out of a herd of cattle they can easily get a few cows for milking. Breakfast is generally taken at 5.30 a.m., and as soon as this is finished, or sometimes before it is commenced, one or

two of the men hunt the band of saddle horses and drive them to corral, when each man, whose work will necessitate his riding, ropes his horse, saddles him and rides off to his task, whatever it may be, perhaps hunting lost horses, seeing to the fences, or driving back any stock that may have got beyond the fences, and which it is highly desirable should be kept inside, such, for instance, as thoroughbred bulls. In the spring it is often necessary to get cows and cattle out of bog holes, where they get in searching for water, and are too weak, after a severe winter, to get themselves out. All the men, however, are not riding, as some are irrigating, and others are at work attending to the farm crops. The dinner hour is usually twelve o'clock, and is the principal meal of the day. The afternoon tasks are much the same as the morning's. Supper is taken at seven o'clock, and the men usually retire to bed soon after. It is customary in the East to speak of all ranchmen as *cowboys*. This is not correct, however, as the term is restricted to those men who are employed on the *ROUND-UPS* (q.v.).

See also BRAND and RANCH.

—*COW-CATCHER*.—In America, where the lines of railway run across open country quite unguarded, the reverse of which is the case with English and European tracks, cattle and other obstacles are liable to stray and get upon the line, to the great danger of traffic, to say nothing about their own. As a safeguard, a contrivance, triangular in shape, is fixed low down in front of the locomotive, by which means serious accidents are often prevented. The animals are caught in the basket-like *cow-catcher*, saving them from destruction and the coaches from being thrown off the track.

The *COW-CATCHER* and headlight of the West End locomotive were broken into small pieces [in a collision between the train and some standing trucks], and the engine itself was badly damaged, but it was able to continue the journey to Brooklyn with its freight of badly frightened passengers.—*New York Evening Post*, February 24, 1888.

The train continued for some distance with a man and a horse on the *COW-CATCHER*, and when it was stopped, both were found to be uninjured; the sleigh was entirely demolished.—*Philadelphia Ledger*, 1888.

—**COW-CRITTER.**—In New England and the Western States a cow is thus popularly spoken of. Readers of Carleton's *Farm Ballads* will remember "the blamed *cow-critter* [which] was always coming up." —**COWGRASS.**—A weed which constitutes one of the plagues of farming in the Southern States. —**COW-HIDE** or **COW-SKIN.**—A whip in use amongst ranchmen and cowboys. It is made of twisted strips of raw hide, by which name it is also known. —**TO COW-HIDE.**—To castigate with the weapon aforesaid. —**COWLICK.**—A slang term for a peculiar smooth arrangement of the hair.

If it becomes distinctly apparent that the interests of the government will be subserved by our ministers combing their hair behind their ears, tousing it in picturesque dishevelment about the temples, or indulging the vain ostentation of a **COWLICK**, we shall then ponder the matter with deliberation.—*New York Tribune*, 1888.

—**COW-PARSNIP** (*Heracleum latanum*).—One of the far-famed and popular Shaker remedies, with carminative and diuretic properties. **COW-PEASE.**—A bean which abounds in a wild state in Texas, forming food for man and beast. —**COW-PONY.**—A mustang before it is broken in. —**COW-PUNCHER.**—A herdsman or **COWBOY** (*q.v.*).

A bright silk handkerchief knotted about his neck and with the light buckskin gloves on his hands there was no mistaking his occupation, he was a cowboy or in Western parlance a **COW-PUNCHER**.—*Detroit Free Press*, July 21, 1888.

—**COW TOWN.**—In the West the local centres of the stock-raising industry are so called. Theodore Roosevelt, in *Ranch Life in the Far West*, says, "a true *cow town* is worth seeing, such a one as Miles City, for instance, especially at the time of the annual meeting of the great Montana Stock-raiser's Asso-

ciation. Then the whole place is full to overflowing, the importance of the meeting and the fun of the attendant frolics, especially the horse-races, drawing from the surrounding ranch country many hundreds of men of every degree, from the rich stock-owner, worth his millions, to the ordinary cowboy who works for forty dollars a month. It would be impossible to imagine a more typically American assemblage, for although there are always a certain number of foreigners, usually English, Irish, or German, yet they have become completely Americanized; and on the whole it would be difficult to gather a finer body of men, in spite of their numerous shortcomings.

—**COW-WHIP.**—The *cow-whip* is a very long lash with a very short stock, and is used only in driving the herd, which is often called **THE COWS**.—See **ROUND-UP**.

**COYOTE** (*Canis latrans*).—See **CAYOTE**.

**CRAB-GRASS** (*Digitaria*).—A grass which flourishes in the South, sometimes much to the detriment of the growing crops. It, however, forms, when dry, an excellent fodder.

**CRAB-LANTERN.**—Why a small pasty or turnover should, in the South, be called a *crab-lantern* does not appear upon the surface, and dependent, knowing nothing, says so.

**CRAB-SCHOONER.**—A boat of schooner build. There seems some doubt as to whether *crab* should not be rendered "grab"; in any case the term is not common. Bartlett quotes it in connection with an extract from the *New York Tribune* in which, during the war, the "Reliance," a vessel belonging to the Potomac Flotilla was reported

as having captured a *crab's schooner* named the "Monitor."

**CRACK, To.**—To utter worthless paper money; to forge bank-notes, cheques, etc. Possibly an idiomatic extension of the slang phrase *to crack*, *i.e.*, "to force," and "cracksman," a burglar.

**CRACKER.**—(1) Crackers in America are what in England usually receive the name of biscuits, although in the Northern counties the American usage in part prevails. When biscuits are spoken of, hot rolls are meant.

I gave the latter (a professional tramp) a piece of tobacco and some **CRACKERS** and some cheese, and he soon went away.—*New York Sun*, 1888.

—(2) In the same way that, in firework displays, the squib of English pyrotechnists is replaced by a *cracker* made of a kind of fulminating powder, so *jeux d'esprit*, or lampoons, instead of being spoken of as squibs, are called *crackers*.—(3) In Carolina and Georgia, a poor white; and, in other localities, generally a vagabond or tramp.

Black Joe's bear was not really savage, nor was he exactly tame either—sorter betwixt and between, as a **CRACKER** once expressed it.—*Denver Republican*, April, 1888.

—**CRACKER STATE.**—Georgia. This, one of the most thriving States of the Union, and beyond comparison the most enterprising and energetic Southern State, little deserves the name of *Cracker State*, by which it is occasionally designated, from the *crackers*, the lowest and most ignorant of its citizens before the abolition of slavery. Some have thought the nickname arose from the peculiar dialect of these people, which is almost incomprehensible

to report or describe.—**CRACKER-BOY.**—A boy attendant on machines called *crackers*, used for pulverizing anthracite coal.

**CRACKLINGS.**—(1) Also known as **GOODY BREAD**; this is a favorite dish with negroes in the Southern States. It consists of *crackling*, *i.e.*, the rind of roasted pork, mixed with corn-bread.—(2) Pork fat roasted or baked until quite crisp. This, in New England, is known as **PORK SCRAPS**.—(3) The cinders of a wood fire. Southern.

**CRACKLOO.**—A tap-room game. A crack in the floor is selected, and the game consists in pitching coins so that, after touching the ceiling, they shall descend on or near the line selected.

**CRACK ON, To.**—A verb synonymous with energetic performance; promptness; persistence. "*To crack on all hands*," *i.e.*, to employ all one's resources.

**CRADLE.**—A cradle-shaped machine, which is also known as a rocker, used in mining for washing out gold dust.—**To CRADLE.**—To perform the operation of washing out gold dust.—**CRADLE SCYTHE.**—An agricultural instrument which takes its place as the forerunner of the modern reaping-machine. By its aid the work of reaping is largely expedited. Little used now except on small properties.—**To CRADLE.**—To cut grain as aforesaid.—**CRADLE OF LIBERTY.**—Faneuil Hall, in Boston, Mass., one of the show places of that city, on account of its having been the scene of meetings, the purpose of which was to rouse the American people to throw off the English yoke.



**CRAMP BARK** (*Viburnum opulus*).—The tree cranberry of the North. The fruit is very acid, and is mainly used in medicine.

**CRANBERRY-TREE.**—See **CRAMP BARK**.

**CRANK.**—Various meanings are associated with this word; but generally it is used to signify an unsteady, capricious, eccentric, or crotchety individual. Latterly, however, its meaning has been enlarged so as to include one who manifests a deep enthusiasm in any subject or thing; like many other expressions which have hit the popular taste it is worked to death. A writer in the *Florida Times Union* speaking of the new forcing system in the public schools remarks: I know perfectly well that I shall probably be called an old foggy, if not a *crank*, for presuming to think that anything in the past can be better than in the present. While in speaking of base-ball the *New York Tribune* thinks a good deal of ridicule, mostly good-natured, is showered upon the base-ball *crank*, as everybody persists in calling the man or woman who manifests any deep interest in the great American game, or who persists in interlarding all his converse with the peculiar phraseology of the sport. The *Daily Inter-Ocean* (February 2, 1888), was clearly right in dubbing a man "as evidently a *crank* [who] said that 4,000 dollars was due him by the Government [that] the president had retained for his own use, and [that] he intended going to the White House with a big bull-dog and demanding of the president that he settle up accounts."

**CRAPS.**—A game of chance played with dice, and a great favorite with negroes, who carry their supersti-

tions into this as into other matters of their everyday life.

A party of colored deck hands were playing **CRAPS**. One of the party had a bat's liver, and he laid it on the deck floor every time he picked up the ivories to throw. As a result, he won all the money his companions had.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, 1888.

—**CRAP-HOUSE.**—A negro gambling den, where the game of *craps* is played.

When arrested he was in the negro **CRAPHOUSE** kept by Alex. Wells in the alley between Sixth and Seventh and Poplar and Spruce Streets.—*Missouri Republican*, Feb., 1888.

**CRAWFISH.**—A turncoat; a backer-out. —Hence to **CRAWFISH**, equivalent to what is known in English politics as "ratting." —**CRAWFISHY.**—An adjective used in a similar sense.

After a hard session we landed at 8.30 p.m., when I offered to bet Cartnell the drinks that I was dead. He was afraid to bet and **CRAWFISHED** out of the issue by claiming that he didn't drink.—*San Francisco Weekly Examiner*, March 22, 1888.

Mrs. Breezy, of Chicago (to daughter)—It has occurred to me of late, dear, that George is not quite so attentive and devoted to you as he was when you first became engaged.

Miss Breezy (nervously)—Oh, mamma, you don't think he intends to **CRAWFISH**, do you?—*The Epoch*, 1888.

The simile is suggestively drawn from the mode of locomotion peculiar to the shell-fish. *To crawfish* is as general as "to rat"; it originated in the West.

**CRAWL THROUGH, TO.**—To **CRAWL THROUGH A KNOT HOLE.**—To escape from a difficult position by "ways that are dark and tricks that are vain."

**CRAZY.**—Synonymous with "mad," and never used as in England; simply to mean shaky. It must be

noticed, however, that even in the Old Country, of late years, *crazy* is more often than not used with the more serious meaning.

**CRAZY BONE.**—The "funny bone" of English children.

**CREAM-CITY.**—Milwaukee; from the color of its bricks.

**CREAMERY.**—In the same way that Yankee grandiloquence writes up a village as a city, or a school as an academy, so the old-fashioned dairies have been replaced by *creameries*.

Madam might have another idea on the subject if she but knew that most of these flowery-named *CREAMERIES* had an existence only in dark and dingy cellars down town.—*New York Herald*, July 29, 1888.

Despite the oleo-margarine law the production of choice gilt-edged butter is far below the demand, as a larger proportion of inferior butter finds its way to market. The *CREAMERIES* send butter of the most uniform quality to market, but that from private dairies differs greatly.—*Missouri Republican*, February 24, 1888.

**CREAM SODA.**—A favorite drink of American women. It is composed of ice cream mixed with soda water.

**CREASE, To** (Transitive verb).—To temporarily stun a horse or steer by a blow or shot in the neck in order to catch him. This practice, which is sufficient for the purpose in view, is said not to hurt the animal much.—See *MUSTANG*.

In the early days of the cattle business in Texas, from 1857 to 1860, the ranges were overrun by bands of wild horses. As a rule they were a rough ill-shaped set of beasts, and almost untamable, so that few attempts were ever made to catch them, it being considered best to shoot them on sight and thus get rid of a disturbing influence in our horse herds. Sometimes, however, a really fine animal would be seen, and the ranchmen would try hard to secure it. But the or-

dinary mode of capture, lassoing, could seldom be used against wild horses, as these beasts were very shy, and even a poor horse, carrying no weight, could outstrip a very fine animal with a man on his back. In this extremity the Texans used to resort to a means of capturing the horses, which is, I believe, exclusively American. It was discovered, I do not know how, that a blow upon a particular sinew in a horse's neck, located just above where the spine joins the skull, would paralyze the animal temporarily without doing it any permanent injury. In those days the Texans were nearly without exception fine shots, and at short range could send a rifle ball with phenomenal accuracy. The horses could not be approached except on foot, and it was impossible to catch them on horseback. But, not to be overcome by any such difficulties, the cowboys discovered a way to capture them. Taking his rifle a hunter would crawl through the thick chaparral until within fifty or sixty yards. Then, taking careful aim, he would send a bullet through the top of the neck so as to strike the sinew. When this was properly done the horse would fall as if struck by lightning and remain insensible for ten or fifteen minutes, recovering completely in an hour or two, with no worse injury than a slight wound in the back of the neck that soon healed. Of course many bullets went astray and hundreds of horses were killed, but a good shot would secure about one horse in three that he attempted to *CREASE*, as this mode of capture was called. The large calibre rifles commonly in use were not adapted to this peculiar mode of hunting, as if they touched the sinew they were sure to break it, and the wounds the 44 or 52 calibre balls inflicted were too severe. The weapon universally employed in *CREASING* mustangs was the old Hawkins rifle, which carried a bullet not much larger than a pea, had a set trigger, and required but a small charge of powder. These weapons were wonderfully accurate up to 100 yards, but inflicted a trifling wound, and the bullet was likely to take a course through soft flesh around any hard object, instead of tearing through it, as a larger ball propelled by a heavier charge of powder would do. Hundreds of mustangs used to be *CREASED* every year, and this practice was kept up until the herds had entirely disappeared.—*J. T. Hill in St. Louis Post Dispatch*.

They approached within about two hundred yards of a dozen buffaloes, and all hands stopped, with the exception of Vic, who crawled on hands and knees within one hundred yards, and, selecting a fine fat cow, took careful aim and accomplished what was intended—that is, shot her through the muscles of the neck and knocked her down, a feat that is called *CREASING*.—*Billings (M.T.) Gazette*, February, 1888.

**CREATION.**—**BEATS ALL CREATION.**—Overpowering; incomparable. A general idiom used throughout the States, but probably in the first instance of Western origin.

'Nayburs,' said Joe after a painful pause, 'if I've mistook then I've mistook. I reckon you know better nor me, an' I'm willin' to take advice. **BEATS ALL CREATION** how I mistook, but I shan't go agin yer words.'—*Detroit Free Press*, August, 1888.

**CREATURE** and **CRITTER** are used colloquially with very finely-drawn shades of meaning.

[De Vere says] This word is frequently used in the South for an animal, especially a horse. Its more common form is **CRITTER**, with a nice distinction between the two, when applied to men, as explained by General Squash of Connecticut, in the *Gouty Philosopher*: The word **CREATURE**, said the General, implies a certain amount of goodness, beauty, and respect, and love, as when we talk of God's **CREATURES**; whereas **CRITTER** is always associated with some idea of inferiority in the person so designated, and of good or even ill-natured contempt on the part of the speaker. Thus when I tell you that Mrs. or Miss A—— is a **CREATURE**, you'll learn, if you do not interrupt me, that I consider her lovely either in mind or person or both. But were I to call her a **CRITTER**, and no more, you'd be justified in believing that, in my opinion, she was either a slut, a scold, a scandalmonger, a fool, or a flirt, and that I had no respect for her. If I said to you in the street: 'Look at that lovely **CREATURE**!' it would probably be to direct your attention to a fine woman or a beautiful child. But if I said: 'Look at that pretty **CRITTER**!' the words might apply to a pet-poodle or a prancing horse. Ours is a great country, sir, a very great country, but it swarms with **CRITTERS**, as you'll see if you travel much among us and open your eyes as you go. They are the unwholesome growth of our over-ripe civilization and of our too much liberty.

P. H. Gosse gives a ludicrous account of the nice distinction which Americans, with all their apparent looseness of language, know how to apply, when it seems necessary.

I inadvertently spoke of it (a 'possum) as a singular **CREATURE**, but **CREATURE** or rather **CRITTER** is much too honorable a term for such an animal, being appropriated to cattle.

A 'possum, sir, is not a **CRITTER** but a varmint.—*Letters from Alabama*, p. 234.

**CRÉDIT MOBILIER.**—The name by which "The Pennsylvania Fiscal Agency" was popularly known. This corporation was, in brief, a construction company for the Union Pacific Railroad. Banks of *Crédit Mobilier* in France are designed to aid all industrial enterprises, hence the adoption of the phrase in the present case. The scandal with which it is connected occurred during the forty-second Congress, and several members of the House were charged with having been improperly influenced by representatives of the company. Except in the cases of two (both of whom died within three months after the vote of censure was passed upon them), the charges were not sustained by the House.

**CREEK.**—Throughout the American continent and the West Indies, a small stream. In New England, a *creek* is a brook; and elsewhere a run or branch are used synonymously.—**CREEK - BOTTOM.**—See **BOTTOM LANDS**.

**CREEP.**—In Pennsylvania a stool. "Creepie" or "creepy" is quoted by Jamieson, in his *Scottish Dictionary*, as a low stool.

**CREEPER.**—In New England, a shallow frying-pan.

**CREEPY.**—A Pennsylvanian name for a speckled kind of fowl.

**CREOLE.**—This word, both as a noun and adjective is, in England, generally applied to one in whose veins flows, wholly or partially, negro blood. This is an error. In the Southern States and the West Indies it simply means of



native birth; thus, in Demerara, a child born in the colony, whether of white or black parents, would be a *creole*, the term being also applied to horses, cattle, and sheep. A marked exception prevails, however, in the Southern States, in that *creole* is never applied by residents to negroes, or to any person who has, in the least degree, a touch of the "tar brush." In Louisiana, and more particularly New Orleans, a *creole* is a native of French descent. *Creole* is from the Spanish *criollo* which originally meant nothing more than a child born in the West Indies, or on American soil. —Hence CREOLE FRENCH, a dialect or patois now rapidly passing into disuse.

In the City of the Crescent, by red Mississippi waves,  
Walk's the haughty CREOLE lady with her daughters and her slaves.—*Ballad of Crescent City, Harper's Weekly.*

—CREOLE STATE.—Louisiana. So called from the greater number of the inhabitants being descended from French and Spanish settlers.

**CREOSOTE PLANT** (*Larrea mexicana*).—This plant, which is noxious to animals, on account of its highly odorous and resinous exhalation, covers vast districts in the sandy parts of California, and extends eastwards as far as Arkansas.

**CRESCENT CITY**.—New Orleans. Originally so called because built in the form of a crescent on a bend of the Mississippi River. This description no longer applies on account of large extensions. New Orleans is the metropolis of the South.

New Orleans has laid back, satisfied that, with its unequalled advantages, trade and business would naturally come here without any bidding. They have not come, and

we have seen business diverted to other places, with not one-half the advantages of the CRESCENT CITY.—*New Orleans Times Democrat*, Feb. 7, 1888.

—CRESCENT CITY OF THE WEST.

—Galena in Illinois has perhaps a better title to the sobriquet of the *Crescent City* from its shape, than now has New Orleans, its older rival in that respect.

**CREVASSE**.—From the French *crêver*, to burst. Specially used along the Mississippi to denote a breach in its embankments. When the great river thus breaks its bounds, the swift-flowing current causes great destruction for miles round.

**CRIMSON**.—To MAKE THINGS LOOK CRIMSON.—This is a variant of PAINTING THE TOWN RED (*q.v.*), *i.e.*, indulging in a drunken frolic.

**CRISPSE and CRISPY**.—Crisp; crispy. A vulgarism formed on the same lines as "wopse" for wasp.

**CRITTER**.—See CREATURE.

**CROAKER**.—A fish found principally in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico. So named from the peculiar sound emitted by it when taken from its element.

**CROKER**.—A species of water-fowl found in Virginia.

**CRONKER**.—A wild goose.

After a half-hour's wait, a flock of the wild CRONKERS, numbering several thousand, flew down near the spot and began devouring the corn. Jimmy got his knife and club ready and rose up with loud cries. The geese rose too.—*Portland Transcript*, 1888.

**CROOK**.—A thief; swindler; one whose ways society regards as "not straight."

Strange as the statement may seem, the public know nothing of the work of a really clever crook, and the police themselves know very little more. The explanation of this ignorance is a very simple one. A CROOK whose methods are exposed is a second-rate crook.—*Orange Journal*, April 16, 1887.

—CROOKEDNESS.—Rascality of every kind.

'What are you trying to get out of me?' 'I am going to see that to-night you are better lodged to begin with. I may decide to do more, but that will depend pretty much on yourself.' 'Nothing CROOKED, is it?' asked the other, suspiciously! 'because I had an opportunity to go into the sawdust game with a most accomplished swindler.'—*Detroit Free Press*, November 3, 1888.

—TO CROOK THE ELBOW or LITTLE FINGER.—A slang term for drinking.

**CROOKED - STICK.**—A cantankerous, cross-grained, and perverse person.

So as I aint a CROOKED-STICK, just like, like old—(I swear, I don't know as I know his name)—I'll go back to my plow.

—*Biglow Papers*.

**CROOKED WHISKEY.**—Illicitly distilled whiskey upon which no excise has been paid.

The United States Marshall, who was looking for CROOKED WHISKEY, was on his way to arrest the whole bilin' of [them] for treasonable proceedings.—*Petroleum*, V. Nasby.

**CROOK - NECK.**—A New England SQUASH.

**CROP.**—A noun and verb. In the bucolic dialect of the plains an ear mark, or to make a mark by cutting the ear.—*See BRAND*.

**CROPPER.**—A farmer on commission, the consideration being paid either in money or kind, oftenest the latter, and calculated by the proprietor on the basis of the crop produced.

**CROPIE.**—A local name for a species of green bass found in Lake Minnetonka, near which are the Minnehaha, or Laughing Waterfalls, immortalized by Longfellow.

**CROPPING.**—In England the nearest approach to the Western and Southern meaning of this word is "to sow"; or "plant" land; in the localities named, however, it is used to signify giving special attention to one kind of crop.

**CROSS.**—TO SHAKE THE CROSS.—Thieves' argot. To quit stealing.

The day my time was up, you told me if I would SHAKE THE CROSS and live on the square for three months, it would be the best job I ever done in my life.—*Mark Twain's Life on the Mississippi*, p. 459.

—CROSS - BUTTOCKSED.—Pugilistic slang. Defeated in an encounter.

John L. Sullivan's defeat was galling enough to our national pride, but we of St. Louis have a deeper humiliation to bear in the inglorious discomfiture of Baptist Ray by Methodist Ditzier. The ring was formed at Kennett, in this State, and it was a fight to a finish. They say Ditzier cross-BUTTOCKSED Ray (whatever that may mean) on the third round, and was declared the winner. The *Christian Advocate* says the result was a great victory for the Gospel. It was a scrapping match between Eolus and Neptune, or between Methodist wind and Baptist water, and cross-BUTTOCKSING, we suppose, meant turning the old Baptist tub bottom upwards.—*Western Watchman*, April 8, 1888.

—CROSS-FOX (*Vulpes fulvus*).—A breed of fox between the silver-gray and reddish-brown varieties, usually with a black cross marked upon the back. The skins, which are exceedingly rare, command a high price. —CROSS-TIMBER.—The name of two remarkable tracts, about twenty miles wide and several hundred miles long, which extend in a southern direction between Red River and

Trinity River, and are covered with lofty trees in such singularly regular lines and cross lines, that they suggest irresistibly the idea of having been planted at some remote time by the hand of man. **TIMBER** (*q.v.*) is a Western phrase for forest. The wood of the *cross-timbers* is mainly **POST-OAK** and **BLACK-JACK**, and the whole tract of country covered by it is passable for wagons.—**CROSS-VINES**.—A trailing plant, the stem of which, when stripped of its bark, divides, as if split cross-wise into quarters.

**CROTCHICAL**.—A New Englandism equivalent to whimsical; having peculiar fancies; **CROTCHETY**.

**CROW**.—To EAT BOILED CROW.—A newspaper editor who is obliged by his "party" or other outside influences, to advocate "principles" different from those which he supported a short time before is said to "eat boiled crow." Originally the phrase was simply to EAT CROW, and the following account is that currently accepted as to its derivation.

During the unpleasantness between the States and England there were located on the opposite sides of the Niagara river a British and an American fort, and during an armistice the soldiers of both garrisons were accustomed to go hunting. Among the American troops was one long, lank, stuttering specimen of the genus Yankee, who would persist, in spite of orders to the contrary, in going across the river on his hunting expeditions. One day when on the Canada side he had had poor luck and got nothing, but resolved not to go back entirely empty handed. While passing through the grounds of an English gentleman, he spied a crow, and, blazing away, brought it down. The Englishman had witnessed the shot and resolved to punish the offender for poaching on his private grounds. As the Yankee was loading his gun he approached, and, complimenting him on his good shot, asked to look at his gun. The unsuspecting Yankee handed it to him, and the Briton, bringing the gun to his shoulder and covering the Yankee abused him for trespassing

on his grounds, and ordered him, on pain of death, to take a bite out of the crow. The soldier begged and pleaded, but to no avail. The Englishman had the drop on him, so he finally bit a piece from the breast of the crow. The Englishman, after warning him to keep off his premises in the future, handed him back his gun and bade him clear out. No sooner was his rifle returned than he covered the Briton and ordered him to finish the crow. Then it was the Englishman's turn to beg off, but the Yankee was firm, and the Englishman, with many a wry face, did succeed in downing several bites of the unsavory bird. His wounded honor being appeased, the Yankee betook himself back to the fort. The Englishman the next day went to the American commander and told his version of the affair, and demanded that the culprit be punished. From the description given the American officer knew that the offender must have been the stuttering soldier, and ordered him to be brought before them. When he came in the captain asked him if he had ever seen the gentleman before. The Yankee shifted uneasily from one foot to the other, and, after several attempts, finally answered that he had. 'When and under what circumstances?' asked the officer. 'I d-dined with him y-y-yesterday, captin,' stuttered the soldier. The story goes that his wit saved the soldier from punishment.—*Atlanta Constitution*, 1888.

**CROWD**.—I DON'T BELONG TO THAT CROWD, *i.e.*, I don't belong to that set. Colloquially *crowd* is used in America to denote a company or even a single person; *e.g.*, "he's a bad *crowd* generally." Originating in the South and West, its use has spread all over the Union, and is now frequently heard in England. —Also to CROWD, to squeeze in; to push; or even simply to pass in without abnormal exertion. The *New York Mercury* of July 21, 1888, gives rather an amusing instance of the peculiar use of this word. It seems that a colored Baptist congregation in Minnesota was out on the border of a conveniently located lake, attending the immersion of young converts gathered in at a recent revival. Among the candidates for the rite was a strapping great mulatto woman, whose ample proportions were enhanced by a bustle, itself of no mean dimen-



sions. When she went into the water the minister found the bustle a stumbling block to his holy work. It acted as a buoy for the candidate, floating her up when the minister attempted to put her under the water. After he had experimented two or three times with the candidate, each time being defeated in his purpose by the bustle, one of the dusky brethren on the shore yelled out: "*Crowd* dat ar bustle under the water, parson; *crowd* it under. It's de wickedest thing you've got to deal with."

Phillips has, it is said, been in the habit of getting very heavy with liquor and then crowding in to his wife's room at unreasonable hours of the night.—*Missouri Republican*, February 24, 1883.

**CROWER.**—A prudish euphemism for "cock." This is not the only instance in which certain sections of Americans fall from the frying-pan of squeamishness into the fire of indelicate suggestiveness.

**CRUEL.**—Very, exceedingly. An old friend with a new face, and not an Americanism save by survival. It was used by Pepys in his *Diary*—"cruel angry," "cruel mad." It is to be feared that these intensives are again creeping into favor in England.

**CRUISE.**—TO GO ON A CRUISE.—To go on an expedition, whether important or otherwise, even to taking a walk down the next street. A New Englandism, and obviously derived from sea-faring life.

**CRULLER.**—A twisted cake made of flour and sugar and fried in lard. From the Dutch *kruller*, a curler; the term has, in New York, been handed down as *cruller*. Farther

South, in Maryland, *cruller*, DOUGH-NUT and FOSSNOCK are synonyms.

**CRUMMY.**—American slang for comely; pretty; a plump, full-figured girl is, in England, also described as *crummy*.

**CRUSH HAT.**—Whereas in England the collapsible opera hats are only so called, in America any soft head-gear receives this name.

**CRY, TO.**—To be cried in church is a New Englandism which corresponds to the publication of banns, or the English provincial "askings" or "callings." Now almost obsolete, but formerly quite official, since the laws of Connecticut provided that persons "shall be *cried* three times in church before they can be married."

**CUCUMBER-TREE** (*Magnolia acuminata*).—So called from the resemblance of its fruit in its early stages to small cucumbers. The likeness does not continue, the fruit turning to a bright red.

**CUDDY.**—See BURRO.

**CUDWEED.**—A species of everlasting plant (*Gnaphalium*).

**CUFFY OR CUFFEY.**—A generic name for a negro; akin to "Sambo," "Quashie," etc. Thought to be a corruption of the English slang "cove."

**CULLY.**—A companion. In Old English slang "cull" had the same signification—a man or woman; a partner.

What's yer hurry, CULLY?—*New York Mercury*, 1888.

**CUNNER.**—A univalve found in New England waters. Genus *Patella*.

**CUNNING.**—A feminine Americanism, used when speaking of anything that is interesting or pretty. One's hand may have *cunning*, but a *cunning* foot would, in some cases, awaken stirring memories. American ladies, however, would simply mean that the pedal extremity was small, shapely, pretty, or taking. Mr. R. A. Proctor amusingly comments upon this word, that, on hearing in America that twins had been born to him in England, a lady "comforted him" by saying that twins are always so *cunning*.

As a child, she had been called *CUNNING* in the popular American use of the word when applied to children; that is to say, piquantly interesting; and this characteristic of quaint piquancy of appearance she retained, now that she was a young woman of eighteen.—*Century Magazine*, 1888.

**CUNNUCK.**—See *CANACK*.

**CURIOS.**—Particularly fine; excellent; nice. Only an Americanism by survival, a fact which both Bartlett and Proctor omit. It was once in very frequent use by old English writers.

**CURLED MAPLE.**—A species of maple, the wood of which is peculiarly adapted for cabinet work.

**CURLEYCUES.**—See *CARLIGUES*.

**CURTISANS** (Cant).—Broken down lawyers; the *SHYSTERS* (*q.v.*) of the Tombs.

**CURTITUDE.**—"Skirts of convenient *curtitude*," *i.e.*, shortness, from "curt," short. A vulgargism.

**CUSPIDOR.**—A spittoon. From the Spanish *escupidor*.

**CUSS, CUSSÉD, CUSSÉDNESS.**—Authorities differ as to whether *cuss* is derived from a mis-pronunciation of "curse," or whether it is an abbreviation of "customer." At any rate it is used in both ways, the latter primarily involving the idea of meanness and worthlessness. It is, however, by no means confined to a shade or two of meaning. Mischievousness seems implied in the following:—

A more mischievous boy never came under my observation. Pure *CUSSÉDNESS* was spread out all over him. I was a bad boy myself; my son was worse than I was; but that boy of his beat all creation. I'm a deacon, and never believed in total depravity, but I believe in it now. He must have been beyond redemption before he was born.—*Detroit Free Press*, August, 1886.

In Hay's *Song of the Prairie Bell* it conveys the idea of resolution and courage.

Through the hot, black breath of the burnin' boat

Jim Bludsoe's voice was heard,  
And they all had trust in his *CUSSÉDNESS*,  
And knowed he would keep his word.

—*Colonel John Hay*.

It is to be noted that the Coventry Plays employ *cursydnesse* in the sense of sheer wickedness and malignity. — *CUSS-WORDS*. — Oaths. A story is told of a lady who, too squeamish to give utterance to her thoughts, compounded with her conscience by keeping what she called a *CUSS-BOOK*.

Whenever anything particularly exasperating occurs she seizes her *CUSS-BOOK*, sits down and scribbles all the darns and other imprecations she can remember, to the extent of several pages. After that she feels better.—*Chicago Daily Inter-Ocean*, 1888.

We had a call the other day from Major George Devine, a late arrival from the East who is here to look after his mining interests. The Major had on the first real billed shirt we have seen in six months. His boots were also blacked. He sat for two hours and never asked us for a chew of tobacco, a drink of whiskey, or a free puff. He didn't have a gun strapped to his back, and he didn't use *CUSS-WORDS*.—*Detroit Free Press*, Sep. 15, 1888.

—CUSS HIS (YOUR, etc.) PICTURE!  
—A Western oath.

'Would you have the least mite of an idea, boys,' said Hoss, 'that this creature of a faction wants to have every man's rifle stamped with the State arms, and then made pay a license to the State before he can get a bonus for wolf scalps? I want to know what in yearth this Mississippi country's comin' to when such fellars finds favor with the people—what do you think of him, boys?'

'Why, CUSS HIS PICTURE!' was the general response from the bar hunters.—*Slick's Americans at Home*, p. 18.

**CUSTARD APPLE** (*Annona squamosa*).—  
A West Indian fruit; also called the  
SWEET-SOP and SUGAR APPLE.

**CUSTODIZE, To.**—A new form. A  
thief is *custodized* when captured by  
the police authorities.

**CUSTOM-MADE CLOTHING.**—Clothing  
made to measure.

Mr. Bond abominated CUSTOM-MADE CLOTHING, and hence, although his suits were good enough in material, they fitted him as leaves fit a cabbage. He put comfort before style, and independence before tailors' plates. In fact, Mr. Bond was a trifle eccentric without being in the least *outré*.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*, 1888.

**CUT.**—To CUT enters into many combinations, in some of which frolicsomeness runs down the gamut from simple mirth to thoroughgoing rowdyism. "To cut capers"; "to cut shines"; "to cut didoes"; and other similarly characteristic phrases, each and all convey the idea of boisterous fun with or without wine and women. In TO CUT DIRT (see DIRT) we get a slight variation, but it still enshrines the same idea of energy, which, however, is not misapplied to such an extreme degree. Another shade of meaning is expressed in TO CUT A SWATHE (see SWATHE), TO CUT A SPLURGE (see SPLURGE), both being used to indicate swagger-

ing pomposity in gait or dress, while to CUT ONE'S STICK (*q.v.*) has been very materially enlarged in the scope of its meaning.

—CUT, a reduction, *e.g.*, a cut in freight rates for grain.

The Burlington and Quincy Road has made a five-cent CUT to Des Moines and other equally distant Iowa points on first-class freights, and a corresponding reduction on second and third-class.—*New York Evening Post*, Feb. 24, 1888.

Or, as when speaking of the competition in providing popular entertainment, the *Boston Journal* says:—

Three hours of solid fun that anybody can understand, together with thirty or forty songs and a play, are very rarely offered in this city for twenty-five cents, and it certainly seems to me to usher in an era of prosperity and good feeling among the plain people who enjoy a spectacular, musical, and dramatic season at CUT rates.

—To CUT OUT.—A Western plainsman's term for separating a particular animal from the rest of the herd.

When looking through the herd, it is necessary to move slowly; and when any animal is found it is taken to the outskirts at a walk, so as not to alarm the others. Once at the outside, however, the cowboy has to ride like lightning; for as soon as the beast he is after finds itself separated from its companions it endeavors to break back among them, and a young, range-raised steer or heifer runs like a deer. In CUTTING OUT a cow and a calf two men have to work together. As the animals of a brand are CUT OUT they are received and held apart by some rider detailed for the purpose, who is said to be HOLDING THE CUT.—*Century Magazine*, 1888.

—To CUT ROUND.—To make a display.—To CUT UNDER.—To undersell in price.—To CUT UP.—To rudely break in upon conversation; to act in a boisterous manner. To be cut up about anything in the sense of being put to mental pain or anguish is well known as an English colloquialism.—CUT IT FAT!—Overdone flattery is called "Cutting it



fat."—**CUT OFF.**—A new channel formed by swift-flowing rivers, especially in the case of the Mississippi.—**CUT-THROAT GAMES.**—Games of chance which readily lend themselves to dishonest play, the distinctive name arising from the frequency with which fatal quarrels result amongst the wild and lawless characters who largely participate in them.

Promontory [once a tent-town on the Union and Central Pacific Railway] was for that season the transfer point between the Union and Central Pacific; and was composed about equally of hotels, saloons, and gambling tents, with a few stores and shops. There flourished every form of **CUT-THROAT** gambling known—three-card monte, ten-die, the strap game, chuckaluck, and the patent lock game. Occasionally legitimate gambling-like faro or keno was established, but **CUT-THROAT GAMES** were the rule.—*J. H. Beadle's Western Wilds*, p. 104.

—**JUMPING THE CUT.**—So to manipulate cards when cutting that the result is to give the one cutting an unfair advantage—in short, *jumping the cut* is to cheat at cards.

If he lets the light of day strike his operations he is no more a first rate crook than a card sharper, who is detected, can really be called a good hand at **JUMPING THE CUT.**—*Orasege Journal*, April 16, 1887.

—**CUT GRASS** (*Leersia oryzoides*).—A name given in tribute to the sharp edges of the leaves of this plant.

**CUTE.**—An abbreviated form of "acute"; sharp; keen. This is a much debated word. Though provincial in England, it has attained a special prominence by reason of its application in describing the typical Yankee. Hawthorne's particularly 'cute' Yankee child, who left his home and native parish at the age of fifteen months, because he was given to understand that his parents intended to call him Caleb! will readily occur to mind in this connection.

Ain't it **CUTE** to see a Yankee  
Take sech everlastin' pains,  
All to get the Devil's thankee  
Helpin' on 'em weld their chains?  
—*Biglow Papers*.

There is little doubt that the more frequent use of cute in England is mainly attributable to this association and not to an extension of native provincial usage. The word is largely colloquial in the States. **CUTE** is also employed with the same meaning as **CUNNING**, in the sense of pleasing, quaintly pretty, or amusingly odd.—So also **CUTENESS**; keenness.

**CUTTER.**—A sleigh, very lightly built, and drawn by one horse.

**CUTTOES.**—A corruption of *cousteaux*—knives. A word which still survives in the New England States for a large knife.

**CYMBLIN.**—A variety of **SQUASH**.

**CYPRESS** (*Taxodium disticha*).—A tree found in the Southern States which, however, is quite distinct from the European variety. It is described by C. H. Gosse as a tree of noble stature, being occasionally seen 120 feet in height. It is very valuable for the durability of its timber, and hence is much in request for building. Its root generally swells in a great cone or beehive-shaped protuberance, several yards in circumference, from the summit of which the tree springs.—**CYPRESS BRAKE**, or **SWAMP.**—Low-lying swampy ground in which fallen cypresses abound.

Before him, as he turned away from the water, a small gray railway platform and frame station house, drowsing on long legs in the mud and water, were still veiled in the translucent shade of the deep **CYPRESS SWAMP** whose long moss drapings almost overhung them on the side next the brightening dawn.—*Century Magazine*, 1888.



**DADBINGED.**—This, with other expressions very similar in type, belongs to a class of half-veiled blasphemies very common throughout the Union, being used by

those who, fearful of committing an open profanity, sugar-coat their oaths and thus think to cheat the devil. Some one has said that such slang terms are but a "whipping the devil round the stump," by persons who desire to enjoy the sweets of wickedness and yet to escape the penalty. The prefix "dad" is probably a variation of "dod" (Query a corruption of "God"), both of which with "dog" enter into combination with "blamed," "fetched," "gasted," "goned," "rot," etc., as *e.g.*, DAD-BLAMED, DODGASTED, DOGGONED, (*q.v.*).

'Why, Mars Tom, I doan want no rats. Dey's de DAD-BLAMEDDEST creturs to 'sturb a body, en rustle roon' over 'im, en bite his feet, when he's tryin' to sleep, I ever see. No, sah.'—*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, p. 391.

—**DADFETCH, DADFETCHED.**—An oath akin to DADBINGED (*q.v.*).

He as soon chop a chile in two as a cat. Day's plenty mo. A chile er two, mo'er less, warn't no conskens to Sollermun, DADFETCH him.—*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, p. 122.

'What jury are you on?' asked a lawyer. 'What jury?' 'Yes, what jury? Grand or traverse jury?' 'Grand or travis jury? DADFETCHED if I know.'

—So also DADGUM.

He was crawling along, two-thirds of the way home, when his mule shied, with a great splash, and nearly reared off the roadway. 'DADGUM yel' cried Jeff, irritably, 'whut—by grabs, hit's a human critter!'—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

—**DADSNATCHED.**—"Dadsnatched if you can." A circumlocutory oath, akin to DADBINGED.

I doan k'yer what the widder says, he warn't no wise man, neither. He had some er de DADSNATCHEDES' ways I ever see.—*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, p. 121.

**DADDOCK.**—A fallen decayed tree. A rarely heard provincialism in England, but colloquial in the States especially New England.

**DADDYISM.**—Colloquially equivalent to "Mrs. Grundyism," in so far as it arises from slavish adulation of wealth and birth.

An Eastern man commending the services of a young Philadelphian to a Chicago tradesman, said: 'He comes of a very good family; his grandfather was a distinguished man.' 'Was he?' replied the man of Chicago. 'That's of no account with us. There's less DADDYISM here than any part of the United States. What's he himself?'—*Kate Field, in Harper's Bazaar*, August, 1871.

**DAGOS.**—A name first given to people of Spanish parentage born in Louisiana, but now applied, without distinction, to Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, and others of South European nationality.

The shrimps . . . are caught by DAGOS with their seines, who frequently will, with

one haul, bring in enough to fill their lugger, a flat-bottomed boat with a square sail.—*The American*, July 18, 1888.

**DAISY.**—When a man or thing is called a *daisy*, the meaning is that he or it is first-rate of the kind. Thus, a dog, drunkard, or divine may each be called a *daisy* if only they come up to the required standard of excellence. Also equivalent to DANDY.

When fistic exhibitions have these characteristics they are highly manly and intensely interesting. While John L. is unquestionably the peerless, Jack Dempsey is beyond compare a pugilistic DAISY.—*Denver Republican*, 1888.

Our patent spring bed has been remodelled. The one for two in a bed is so arranged that the part the wife lies on can be set by the husband unknown to the former, and it springs her out of bed and stands her up on the floor at any hour for which it is set. It then remains turned up on one edge so she can't get back again, at least on her side of the bed, and she won't come back on his side, for she's too all-fired mad to come near him. So the result is that she is compelled to dress and go downstairs to see to breakfast, and the old man will get a rest. Oh, it's a DAISY! —*Hyde Park Journal*, Mass., 1888.

**DAMAGE.**—WHAT'S THE DAMAGE?—What is there to pay? Quite as common now in England as in the States. Also WHAT'S THE SWINDLE? —**DAMAGED.**—A man when intoxicated may well be said to be *damaged*. A simile of little wit but much point.

**DAMNASTY OATH.**—An irreverent corruption of AMNESTY OATH (*q.v.*), or IRONCLAD OATH, as it was otherwise called, exacted from Southerners after the Civil War.

**DAMSON PLUM.**—Also called the STAR-APPLE (*q.v.*). West Indian.

**DANCE HOUSE.**—A dancing saloon. The "public buildings" of Western towns consist mainly of *dance houses*, drinking saloons, and faro banks,

with their inseparable adjuncts of gun shops and a shooting gallery.

**DANDER.**—TO GET ONE'S DANDER UP; TO GET ONE'S DANDER RAISED. —To work oneself into a passion; to get angry. Possibly an English provincialism. It may be remarked in this connection that Brewer in *Phrase and Fable* quotes *dander* as a corruption of "damned anger," the "damned" being employed as an oath. He further remarks that Halliwell gives, in his *Archaic Dictionary*, both *dander* (anger) and *dandy* (distracted) the former common to several English counties, and the latter peculiar to Somersetshire.

Wut'll make ye act like freemen?

Wut'll GIT YOUR DANDER RIZ?

—*J. Russell Lowell's Biglow Papers*.

He was as spunky as thunder, and when a Quaker GETS HIS DANDER UP, it's like a North-wester. —*Major Jack Downing's Letters*, p. 75.

**DANDIFIED.**—Dandyish; foppish.

**DANDY.**—Something out of the common; first-class.

Dr. H. Conner has invested in a fine piece of horseflesh. The animal was purchased in Oshkosh, and has a record of 2:37. It is said to be a DANDY.—*Superior Inter-Ocean*, 1888.

A shoeblack suggested to me that my boots were badly in need of a shine. In fact he hinted that the condition of my footgear was in a state of dimness and dinginess unbefitting a gentleman of my standing, so I bade him go to work and shine 'em up. As I placed my boot on the box, I noticed the end was inlaid with coppers, and I picked it up to examine it. 'My box ain't no good mister, but I know a feller over dere dat's got de DANDY one. It's got a whole lot of five dollar gold pieces in it,' said the arab. I bribed him to guide me to the haunt of de feller what's got de DANDY. —*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, January 21, 1888.

'I'm a terror from Philadelphia and I can lick any man in the world. I'm a DANDY from away back; the further back they come the DANDIER they are, and I come from the furthest back,' spoke a rough-



looking specimen of humanity as he threw off his coat and vest and danced a can-can on Exchange Place in Jersey City last night.—*Missouri Republican*, February 2, 1888.

Officer Finley, who had wielded the club, stepped modestly forward and was just about to inform the specimen that he had done the work, when he was caught under the chin with a DANDY from the specimen's left that staggered him.—*Missouri Republican*, February 2, 1888.

Daly, rushing in, again sent in two swingers on Jimmy's neck, and stepping back he made a right-hand swing, which landed on the latter's lower ribs and caused Jimmy to remark that it was a DANDY. If that was a DANDY, what followed must have been more than that.—*Boston Daily Globe*, 1888.

**DANDY TRAP.**—A loose stone, which tilts when trodden on, and, in wet weather, throws up the mud under it, to the great detriment of the clothes of the victim.

**DANGEROUS.**—Used colloquially in the States to signify being in danger, a meaning which is also given by Forby in his *Vocabulary of East Anglia*.

**DANGLE BERRY.**—A species of the blue whortleberry.—See **BILBERRY**.

**DANGNATION!**—A comforting exclamation for those whose consciences will not allow them to say "damnation!" *Dangnation!* is often contracted to **DANG IT!**

Dakota lady (impatiently)—'Aren't you nearly ready for church, my dear? the bell is tolling.'

Dakota husband—'DANG IT all, I can't find my plug of tobacco!'—*Scenes in Dakota*, 1888.

**DANITES.**—A band of Mormon assassins whose work consisted in "removing" those who had made themselves obnoxious to the Mormon leaders. The "Saints" deny the existence of these men, but there seems little doubt of the truth of the serious allegations laid to their charge.

**DANSY.**—A Pennsylvanian Dutch term used in describing those whose faculties are failing them through old age. Similar in meaning and application to the English "dotty."

**DARDANELLES OF THE ORINOCO.**—The tract of country which commands the Orinoco on either side, in the same way that the Dardanelles of Europe command the approaches to Constantinople. The river Orinoco is bounded on one side by the island of Trinidad, and the claim recently made by the British Government to the country lying eastward, if established, would, it is averred, give England absolute possession of the *Dardanelles of the Orinoco*, recognized for a century as the key to South America.

**DARK AND BLOODY GROUND.**—The State of Kentucky which, more than once in its history, has been the scene of frightful carnage and unhappy memories. Its sobriquet is said to be a literal translation of its Indian name, bestowed by the aborigines, in consequence of a death struggle which once took place within its confines, between rival tribes of Indians. The cognomen has been still further perpetuated through its having been the battle ground, in early colony days, of the long and relentless struggle between the red and white races.

The McCoy and Hatfield feud shows that Kentucky will not willingly surrender its designation of the **DARK AND BLOODY GROUND.**—*St. Louis Daily Globe Democrat*, 1888.

In the area thus described is included part of the Upper Ohio. Senator West in a speech upon the compulsory education of Indian children, thus delivered himself concerning this historically blood-stained region:—

I am a Western man; I come from a State which was called the DARK AND BLOODY GROUND on account of the terrible wars between the red and the white races, and my forefathers were engaged in them, and I lost relatives in them. I was raised with the prejudices of the men that fought against these Indians; but with advancing years, I trust with more charity and more enlargement of observation and judgment, I say to-day that the proposition that these people must be left to extinction is the most horrible that can be contemplated by any intelligent man.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, March 8, 1888.

**DARKIE, DARKY.**—A popular appellation for a black man.

Way down upon the Swanee Ribber,  
Far, far away.  
Dere's wha my heart is turning eber,  
Dere's wha de old folks stay.  
All up and down de whole creation,  
Sadly I roam,  
Still longing for de old plantation,  
And for the old folks at home.  
All de world am sad and dreary,  
Eberywhere I roam.  
Oh! DARKIES, how my heart grows weary,  
Far from de old folks at home.  
—*Negro Ballad*.

**DARK MOON OR DARK OF THE MOON.**—The period between the moon's change from "full" to "new." Also provincial in England.

**DARK MOUNTAIN CITY.**—Greenville.

Greenville, the DARK MOUNTAIN CITY, is literally in semi-darkness to-night from the partial burning of the gas works last night. No street lights are burning.—*The News and Courier (Charlestown)*, February 21, 1888.

**DARN, TO.**—A euphemistic form of swearing, which (with other expressions of its kind) has apparently been invented for those who, as Brother Jonathan puts it, do not care "to cuss bar'foot." Hypocritical and evasive, the disguise is too thin to deceive. Of Southern manufacture. Compare with DAD-BINGED, etc.—Also DARNATION, DANGNATION and DARN BURN IT! (a Texan form), with which also may be compared DODROTTED.

My friend, I don't doubt your story in the least. On the contrary, I believe it fully and implicitly. I will only remark that my experience has taught me that in Colorado the man who tells the first story has a DARNED poor show.—*Harper's Magazine*, 1888.

**DARSN'T.**—Dares not; probably a negro corruption, and of Southern origin. Popularly colloquial.

(Come, thet wun't du, you land-crab there, I tell ye to le' go my toe!  
My gracious! it's a scorpion thet's took a shine to play with 't,  
I DARSN'T skeer the tarnal thing fer fear he'd run away with 't.)  
—*Biglow Papers*.

**DAUBER.**—A species of sand-wasp, so called from the manner in which it builds its nest.

**DEACON, TO.**—In packing fruit, vegetables, etc., to *deacon* is to place the finest on the top, a phrase which either originated through a process of inversion, or is the same idea as that contained in the popular Yankee proverb—"All deacons are good, but there is odds in deacons." At all events, it is curious that the name of an important office, in which men exercise great authority, should have become synonymous with mean deceit, grasping, petty pilfering, and other forms of imposition.—To DEACON A CALF is to kill it; a Connecticut phrase.—To DEACON LAND.—To filch land by gradually extending one's fences or boundary lines into the highway or other common property.—To DEACON OFF.—J. Russell Lowell, in his glossary to the *Biglow Papers*, explains this as "to give the cue to," derived from a custom once universal, but now almost extinct, in the New England Congregational Churches. An important part of the office of deacon was to read aloud the hymns given out by the minister one line at a time, the

congregation singing each line as soon as read. This was called *deaconing off*.

To funk right out o' p'lit'cal strife ain't thought to be the thing,  
Without you DEACON OFF, the tune you want your folks should sing.  
—*Biglow Papers*.

The practice is, except in outlying parts of the country, rapidly passing away, owing to the multiplication of books.—DEACON SEAT.—A lumberer's camp term. How or why so called is difficult to say, as it has no more to do with deacons than with the pope; unless, indeed, it is an allusion to the seats round a pulpit, facing the congregation, reserved for deacons. In log cabins the sleeping apartment is separated from the other interior arrangements by poles laid on the ground. The bed is mother earth, rests for the head being formed of logs, and a footboard is a long pole placed six feet from the fire and in the centre of the cabin. The *deacon seat* is a plank of wood fixed over this pole, and running parallel with it, thus forming a kind of settee in front of the fire.—DEACON'S HIDING-PLACES.—Private compartments in oyster saloons; the *cabinets particuliers* of the French. Boston slang.

DEAD.—With a subtle sense of analogy, sometimes incomparable, the true American draws upon his surroundings and experiences for words and phrases wherewith to express his emotions and feelings. The solemn experience of death has, not unnaturally, supplied many a sententious expression and dramatic metaphor. In a slang sense, the meaning conveyed is that of certainty, or extremity—an all-round superlative. Whether this usage can be traced to an exclusively American origin is not quite

clear; at all events many of the innumerable variants may rightly be classed as Americanisms.—DEAD-BEAT.—(1) A "pick-me-up," compounded of ginger, soda, and whiskey.—(2) A sponger, one who lives upon others. Compare with DEAD-HEAD.

These uncles of your'n ain't no uncles at all; they're a couple of frauds—regular DEAD-BEATS.—*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, p. 284.

—To DEAD-BEAT.—To sponge; to live upon others.

'My little boy wouldn't like his color.'  
'Well, then, you'd better tell your little boy to play with his toes,' and he continued toward the river. 'No party can DEAD-BEAT his way on me these hard times.'—*Boston Journal*, 1888.

—DEAD-BROKE.—Utterly ruined.  
—DEAD DUCK.—Anything which has depreciated in value to the verge of worthlessness; "played out."

Long Branch is said to be a DEAD DUCK. But for the investments made at Elberon the Branch proper would probably have been abandoned long ago. Its bathing beach is a dangerous one, and its hotels have nothing to recommend them. There is absolutely nothing to see and nothing to do.—*New York Clipper*, 1888.

—IN DEAD EARNEST.—In very truth; without doubt.—DEAD-FALL.—A huntsman's trap; so called because the quarry is killed as well as caught by it.—A DEAD GIVE AWAY, OR TO GIVE DEAD AWAY, signifies betrayal in varying shades.

With this infernal thing [the phonograph],  
let loose  
And put to every kind of use  
We shall be careful what we say,  
For it will GIVE US DEAD AWAY.  
—*Detroit Free Press*, August, 1888.

—DEAD GONE.—Utterly collapsed.—DEAD-HEAD.—One who lives by sponging on others; the same as DEAD-BEAT, and as great a pest to society as were the old



highwaymen, though probably the latter would not have felt complimented by the comparison. Surely, however, Bartlett libels his countrymen in saying that *dead-heads* "consist of engineers, conductors, and laborers on rail-roads, keepers of hotels and the editors of newspapers." Be this as it may, the typical *dead-head* travels free of charge, gets his drinks ditto, and, it is said, even lives at the same rate, which it may be assumed is not slow in pace. *Dead-heads* in truth are confined to no particular class or country; they swarm everywhere.

. . . The world their country,  
And their brethren all mankind!

The machine has gone round and round and the music has ground and ground for full ten minutes now without a break, and no one has paid a cent. The riders are all *DEAD-HEADS* and they ride to make business look lively. No wonder the boss looks glum!—*American Humorist*, July 28, 1888.

—To *DEAD-HEAD*.—A verb derived from its corresponding noun which has been popularly extended in meaning to include anything that passes free. The practice itself is similarly called *DEAD-HEADISM*.

The honorable—be it remembered that Mr. Green was a Government official, though no post office business had ever passed through his hands, not even a letter from or to himself, unless we count those which had to do with the stage business and went *DEAD-HEAD*.—*Portland Transcript*, March 14, 1888.

Elder Knapp, the noted revivalist, is exciting a theological fever in the towns of Massachusetts. In Pittsfield, recently, he is reported to have advertised that he would furnish a free pass to glory, but very few of the unrighteous population seemed anxious to be *DEAD-HEADED* on this train.—*New York Tribune*, March, 1871.

—*DEAD RABBITS*.—An extremely rowdy section of the dangerous classes of New York. These nicknames are, like other fashions, continually changing, the *dead-rabbits* of the last decade being now

called Whyos. "Shortboys" was the name in former days, and another sobriquet was the "Soap-Locks," a term which has long since been forgotten.

When I first came to this city the dangerous class was the *SOAP-LOCK*. One of the Sunday papers then contained a picture of a *SOAP-LOCK*, and this was the beginning of that pernicious custom of illustrating crime, which is one of the worst features of the day.—*Troy Daily Times*, February 3, 1888.

—*DEAD-SET*.—Resolute antagonism; the same idea being conveyed in *DEAD-SET-AGAINST*.—To *BE DEAD OR DEATH*, on anything, indicates complete mastery over it; to be a sure hand at it; or to have a great liking for the matter or thing in question; thus Americans are said to be *DEATH ON* cocktails, while the fairer half of Transatlantic humanity are likewise reported to be *DEATH ON* candy, or—save the mark!—chewing-gum.—To *DRESS TO DEATH* conveys the same idea in a round-about slangy way, *i.e.*, dressed to kill; overdressed. —*DEAD TO RIGHTS*.—Certain; without doubt.

Hill claims he has the thing down *DEAD TO RIGHTS*, and that he will make the farmers sweat who have been asserting that his claim was 'N. G.'—*Cincinnati Weekly Gazette*, February 22, 1888.

—*DEAD UNIT*.—A *dead unit* for, or against, denotes collective advocacy of, or opposition to a subject, principle, or line of action.

The Eastern press is a *DEAD UNIT* against the passage of the postal telegraph bill.—*The Solid Muldoon (Ouray, Colorado)*, 1888.

—*DEAD-WORK*.—Work commenced and unfinished is said to be *dead-work*. In reference to a strike it was reported that

To-night the joint committee issued a circular commanding the men to quit everything but *DEAD WORK*, and denouncing as scabs all men working at Reading collieries.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*, 1888.

**DEADEN, TO.**—(1) A Western backwoods term. To deaden is to prepare the way for the actual clearing of land of trees by GIRDLING (*q.v.*) them, *i.e.*, by cutting off a ring of bark round the trunk. This wounds the tree to death; and a CLAIM (*q.v.*) or piece of forest land thus treated is called a DEADENING; subsequently it is a CLEARING.——

(2) Politicians in the West draw from this practice an expressive simile. In the course of a political campaign it is often found necessary to DEADEN the chances of an opponent by circumventing the peculiar dodges and tactics which play so prominent a part in elections.

**DEAF.**—This is said of nuts when decayed or empty. Compare with the Lowland Scotch "deaf," sterile, Pennsylvania.——**DEAF ADDER.**—The BLAUSER (*q.v.*).

**DEAL.**—A transaction of any kind. A term borrowed from the card-table.

A big timber DEAL.—The largest timber transaction ever made in Appleton was completed Thursday by the purchase of 46,000 acres of Florida timber land by an Appleton syndicate. The consideration was 80,000 dollars cash.—*Brainerd (Min.) Tribune*, 1888.

**DEARBORN.**—A Mr. Dearborn was the inventor of a light four-wheeled carriage which received his name.

At last the stage was ready—a three-seated DEARBORN with one white and one brown horse.—*Lippincott's Magazine*.

**DEATH.**—See DEAD.

**DEATH HORSES.**—The death watch.

**DECAPITATE, TO.**—Used in political circles. An office-holder is said to be *decapitated* when his term of office has come to an end. Official positions depend for their tenure

on the result of Presidential elections, which take place every four years.

**DECEMENT.**—Equivalent in speaking of persons to "the deceased."

**DECK.**—A pack (of cards). An old English survival. Shakspeare uses it and Hoyle has it in his book of games. Rarely if ever heard in England, but general in the States. In twenty *deck* poker, *deck* does not literally mean a pack as it is played with twenty cards.

A preacher in Fleming county, Ky., borrowed a suit of clothes to wear while baptizing a convert. Somewhere in the suit there was a DECK of cards which the owner of the clothes forgot to take out, and while the parson and his convert were in the water the cards began to float around them, to the great amazement of the spectators.—*Norristown Herald*, 1888.

**DECLENSION.**—An archaic form; a refusal.

He asked me to drive with him to-day, but I was forced to send him a DECLENSION.—*Southern Literary Messenger*.

**DECLINATION.**—A refusal.

I have no doubt that Blaine's DECLINATION is entirely sincere.—*New York World*, Feb. 14, 1888

**DECORATION DAY.**—A public holiday, set apart for the *decoration* of the graves of those who fell in the Civil War; very similar to the *jour des morts* of the French. Also called MEMORIAL DAY. It occurs generally towards the end of May, and is observed by North and South alike.

We DECK their graves alike to-day  
With blossoms fresh and fair,  
And on the grassy mounds of clay

We lay the flow'rs with care.

—T. N. Mitchell's *We Deck Their Graves Alike To-day*.

**'DEED.**—Indeed. A negro corruption.  
—To DEED.—To convey by deed.

Mrs. Holibaugh, of Aspen, Col., is taking steps to secure possession of eighteen acres of land, located in the heart of Kansas City, valued at 2,500,000 dols. She claims to have been DEEDED the property by her mother-in-law, a French lady, who then held a title to it. Mrs. Holibaugh was born in France, and her first husband was a count.—*Philadelphia Evening Bulletin*, February 23, 1888.

**DEER-MEAT.**—Venison. A curious simplicity, quite out of all comparison with the usual American love of big names, seems to characterize the terms for flesh food; thus we get BEAR-MEAT, *deer-meat*, BUFFALO-MEAT, SHEEP-MEAT, etc.

**DEHORNING.**—The practice of *dehorning* cattle is rapidly increasing, not only in the West, but in some parts of the Middle and Eastern States. The chief objection urged against *dehorning* has been the cruelty of the operation; a lesser one is that it detracts from the appearance of the animal. The second objection remains, but the great majority of those who have practised *dehorning* contend that it is no more painful, if as painful, as other operations generally practised. However this may be, it is fairly safe to conclude that *dehorning*, carefully performed, is not a dangerous operation. The arguments advanced in favor of *dehorning* are; First, the prevention of terrible accidents in handling vicious cattle, especially bulls; second, that the DEHORNEO cattle can be turned loose in sheds and stalls without fear of their injuring each other, even if they are more or less crowded. The preferred age at which to DEHORN is in the second year of the animal's life, and spring is the season favored. The operation, it is averred, is more successful in moderate weather than in either extremes of heat or cold. Preparatory to the operation, the animal's head is made fast; then the horns are sawn off with

a suitable saw close to the hair, where a soft place occurs in the horns.

S. W. H., McLeansboro, Ill.—DEHORNING is performed when the calf is young, and the tips of horns movable. They are simply cut out with a sharp knife.—*Answer to Correspondent in Missouri Republican*, February 15, 1888.

**DEHORT, To.**—To exhort; to beg; to entreat. Judge Sewall in his diary (Ap. 1. 1718) *dehorted* Sam Hirst to eschew idle tricks. Now obsolete.

**DELTA.**—A piece of land at Cambridge in the shape of a  $\Delta$  belonging to Harvard, and used for recreation purposes.

**DEMI-MEAMELOUC.**—A grade of color (like mulatto which is the first remove), in a person with negro blood in his or her veins. These distinctions are drawn very fine. *Demi-meamelouc* is a French term. See MULATTO.

**DEMNITION.**—This, written plainly, is "damnation." Some people think it "looks" nicer.—**DEMNITION BOW-WOWS.**—A superlative species of the "dogs" which spell "ruin." "Going to the *demnition bow-wows*."

There are some men who, if they don't make twice as much as they expect to make, will cry hard times, and say that general business is going to the DEMNITION BOW-WOWS, but these men would say the same thing in any event.—*New York Herald*, March 25, 1888.

—**DEMNITION HOT.**—Exceedingly warm; a heat which is supposed to be akin to that of "the place where they don't rake out the fires nights."

It was a steady, winding climb, and the sun came out. Overcoats were dispensed with. Then our other coats were peeled, and finally we stripped to shirts and trousers. It was DEMNITION HOT, and I commenced to hunt for soft spots in my saddle.—*San Francisco Weekly Examiner*, March 22, 1888.



**DEMOCRATS.**—Democratic-Republican is the full official designation of this great party. It was by a suggestive coincidence, originally, and until 1828-30, known as the Republican party, but affiliating at that time with the Democratic faction, it assumed the compound title which it still claims. The party overthrew the Federalists in 1800, electing Jefferson to the Presidency, and remained in power until 1848, when they were defeated by the Whigs and Free-Soilers. (See REPUBLICANS.) It appears, however, that "Citizen Gluet" first suggested the name (in 1793) as that of a political party. At that time some Philadelphia politicians wished to take the cognomen of "Friends of Liberty and Equality," but Gluet opposed it, and suggested the name "*Democratic Society*," which they adopted.—(*Magazine of American History*, vol. 15, p. 614.)

**DENGUE.**—A malarial fever of the South; it is also called BREAK-BONE FEVER (*q.v.*).

**DEPARTMENT.**—A Government office; thus, instead of Home Office, War Office, Treasury, Colonial Office, etc., the corresponding terms in America are State *Department*, Treasury *Department*, Interior *Department*, etc. Most American official terms are of French derivation. — Also DEPARTMENTAL, that which relates to the principal offices or *departments* of State.

**DEPOT.**—A railway station. A French word imported into the American vocabulary without the smallest reason or excuse; besides which, when a good word existed for the same thing, it was a blunder to employ a name which the French apply to a storehouse, military and

otherwise, and never to a railway station. *Depot* is altogether independent as regards pronunciation, it being called "deepo," or "daypo," or "deppo," or "deepot."

It is the height of pretentious absurdity to give the name of DEPOT to a little lonely shanty, which looks like a lodge outside a garden of cucumbers, a staging of a few planks upon which two or three people stand like criminals on the scaffold.—R. G. *White's Words and their Uses*, p. 149.

DEPOT in the United States is a bastard founding. DEPOT must go!—*Buffalo Commercial Advertiser*, 1888.

**DERAIL, To.**—To cause a train or any portion of it to leave the rails. Like DETRAIN, this is a verb which the exigencies of railway-traffic have called into use. It is employed both transitively and intransitively.

A heavily-loaded passenger-train was standing on the main track directly in the way of the runaway train. A switchman quickly turned the switch just in time to save many lives, and the on-rushing train was DERAILED and piled up in a huge mass, causing 15,000 dols. damage.—*New York Evening Post*, February 24, 1888.

**DESERET.**—A Mormon name for the territory of Utah. It is said to mean "honey-bee."

**DESK.**—A New England term for a pulpit. The severe simplicity of the Puritans will account for the difference of nomenclature. Similarly, when a man intends his son for the Church, he speaks of sending him to the *desk*.

**DESPERATE.**—Very; exceedingly. Used intensively in the same manner as AWFUL and CRUEL (*q.v.*). *Desperately* ill is quite intelligible; not so, however, *desperately* well, except as a perversion of language. The corruption does not stop short at the meaning of the word, for

liberties are also taken with its pronunciation — "desprat" and "desput."

**DESPISEMENT.**—Contempt; disdain; contumely. A new form "built," says an American writer, "on a well-known model."

One evening, I may own to, spent in the weird company of the Pharaohs, when he of the Oppression stretched from the tomb of ages a grisly hand, to hold mespell-bound and leave me with an uncomfortable sensation of over-familiarity bordering on **DESPISEMENT**, for the illustrious Rameses and his intricate problems of domesticity. But nothing less than a *rite-à-tête* with an excavated sovereign could have long detained me from the rival magnet that just at present claims my literary homage.—*The Critic*, May 27, 1887.

**DESSERT.**—Pronounced wrongly, (it being called *des'sert*), and often misapplied by Americans. Properly speaking, it is the service of fruits and sweetmeats which follow the regular courses. In America, it is very generally understood to mean the course of "sweets,"—pastry, puddings, etc.—following meats.

The pastry-cook [in Paris] is very useful. He supplies delicious meat and fish pies, and such **DESSERT** (I use the word in the American sense) as an ordinary cook could not be expected to make; for instance, Charlotte Russe, St. Honoré, Frangipane, and the like.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

**DESTROYING ANGEL.**—Mark Twain thus relates an encounter with one:—

Half an hour or an hour later, we changed horses, and took supper with a Mormon **DESTROYING ANGEL**. **DESTROYING ANGELS**, as I understand it, are Latter-Day Saints, who are set apart by the Church to conduct permanent disappearances of obnoxious citizens. I had heard a deal about these Mormon **DESTROYING ANGELS** and the dark and bloody deeds they had done, and when I entered this one's house I had my shudder all ready. But alas for all our romances, he was nothing but a loud, profane, offensive, old blackguard! He was murderous enough,

possibly, to fill the bill of a destroyer, but would you have *any* kind of an Angel devoid of dignity? Could you abide an Angel in an unclean shirt and no suspenders? Could you respect an Angel with a horse-laugh and a swagger like a buccaneer?—*Mark Twain's Roughing It*.

**DETAIL, also TO DETAIL.**—*Detail* is pretty generally employed to signify a marking or telling off for any given purpose, the verb being similarly used.

I have seen big crowds gather upon Mrs. Cleveland's leaving the church, but I never saw so many people as were there this morning. Some time ago the church people asked for a policeman to stand inside the vestibule and keep the way clear on these occasions, but it did not seem necessary, and no **DETAIL** was ever made for the purpose.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, February 6, 1888.

An extra **DETAIL** of police is always made on this account, and the crowd is not allowed to block the exit.—*Troy Daily Times*, February 6, 1888.

**DETRAIN, To.**—To empty a train of its passengers; generally used in connection with large bodies of people, *e.g.*, "the volunteers detrained quickly on arrival at their destination."

**DEVIL.**—**TO WHIP THE DEVIL AROUND THE STUMP.**—To enjoy the sweets of wickedness and yet escape the penalty.—**DEVIL-FISH.**—A popular name for the **AMERICAN ANGLER** a fish of hideous appearance. The true *devil-fish* is the Southern **STING-RAY**. Amongst other names for the spurious *devil-fish*, are **SEA-DEVIL**, **FISHING - FROG**, **BELLOWS - FISH**, **GOOSE-FISH** and **MONK-FISH**.—**DEVIL'S BIT** (*Aletris farinosa*).—A popular medicinal plant.—**DEVIL'S DARNING NEEDLE.**—A species of dragon-fly. Probably derived from the English provincial popular name—the Devil's needle.—**DEVIL WOOD** (*Olea americana*).—A species of olive found in the Southern States. It

is said to derive its name from the impossibility of splitting it.

**DEVILISM.**—THE SECT OF DEVILISM.—The Whigs of the Revolution. The "Christian" element was represented by the Tories.

**DEWLAP.**—A brand used in marking cattle, being a cut in the lower part of the neck. A ranchman's term.—See BRAND.

**DIAMOND STATE.**—Delaware bears this sobriquet as well as that of BLUE HEN STATE.—See BLUE HEN'S CHICKENS.

**DICKER, To.**—To barter; and, when used as a noun, the thing bartered. A genuine Americanism of Western origin. Generally applied to trade in small articles, and thought to be derived through the Dutch.

The colored man takes his medicine from the Northern drug shops. When Senator Ingalls, or Senator Chandler, or Senator Sherman digs up the past and screams over the ancient relics, the colored man of the South begins to think that he has been neglectful of his duty. He had perhaps been considering the advisability of making a DICKER with his old political opponents in the hope of bettering his condition.—*New York Weekly Times*, March 28, 1888.

A young man walked into the establishment of a prominent undertaker in Detroit a few weeks ago, and after glancing carelessly over the place inquired:

'How much for a coffin?'

The undertaker ran over a list of prices, and asked the sex of the person for whom it was needed.

'It is for a man—a man about my size,' replied the customer.

After some DICKERING a style of coffin was selected and a price decided upon.—*Denver Republican*, April 7, 1888.

**DICKEY.**—A shirt collar. New England. This usage differs from that current in England, where it means a false shirt front.

**DIDOES.**—To CUT DIDOES.—To play pranks; to cut capers.

Had the Free States been manly enough, true enough, to enact the Wilmot Proviso as to all present or future territories of the Union, we should have had just the same DIDOES cut up by the chivalry that we have witnessed, and with no more damage to the Union.—*New York Tribune*, April 10, 1851.

**DIFFICULTED.**—To BE DIFFICULTED.—To be perplexed. "To difficult" appears in Lowland Scotch.

**DIG.**—A diligent student. As scholastic America has invented a special word to describe the genus, it must be assumed that they are not *rara aves*.—To DIG A MAN IN THE RIBS, is to give him a thrust or blow in the side. Generally used in a jocular sense, and sometimes idiomatically. — To DIG OUT.—To elope; to depart.

Then I jumped in the canoe and BUG OUT for our place a mile and a half below, as hard as I could go.—*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

'Well, what do you think? The old woman has skipped.'

'Your wife!'

'Yes, she BUG OUT last night with a teamster.'—*Detroit Free Press*, July 21, 1888.

—To DIG SNUFF is Southern for to dip into a box containing this old-time irritant. — DIGGER INDIANS.—A tribe of Indians who get their name from digging for roots as food. These wretched people have mostly been improved out of existence.—DIGGER PINE (*Pinus sabiniana*).—A species of pine found mainly upon the foothills. Resinous exudations beslobber the trunk, which is rarely straight or vertical. Its foliage is bluish green in color.—DIGGING.—Primarily a mining term, signifying the place where a man works, but the almost boundless licence which Americans allow themselves in matters philological



has long since brought about its adoption, in a more familiar sense, as a place of abode. After all, the transition is not unnatural; and, in any case, the sturdy, if rough phraseology by no means detracts from the dignity of labor; only amongst a Democratic people could the terms for home and work be synonymous. "Were you ever before in these *diggings*?" is a phrase very often heard in the West upon first introduction; and, in J. C. Neal's *Charcoal Sketches*, we read: "Look here, Ned, I reckon it's about time we should go to our *diggings*; I am dead beat, and you don't look as if you could keep out of bed much longer."

The village boys would raise a party of gals, and start off early in the morning for Toad Hill, where the blackberries was e'en a'most as plentiful as mosquitoes in these *DIGGINGS*.—*Lafayette Chronicle*.

—**WET-DIGGINGS** and **DRY-DIGGINGS** are terms in gold districts, for mines near rivers or on the higher lands, as the case may be.—**DIGGING** as an adjective, signifies dear or costly. A horse fetches a *digging* price; or a man's habits are said to be very *digging*, *i.e.*, expensive. This application of the word is peculiarly Southern.—**TO DIG UP THE HATCHET**.—A phrase decidedly Indian in origin. Amongst the aborigines the making of peace or the declaration of war was accompanied by symbolical ceremonies, in which the hatchet or tomahawk played an important part. This, their chief weapon, was buried to signify the putting away of strife; and, conversely, *digging up the hatchet* meant a renewal of warfare. These customs soon became painfully familiar to the early colonists, who appropriated the picturesquely symbolical phraseology of their Indian foes, to signify the amicable settle-

ment of differences, or the opening up of hostilities.

**DIKE**.—**TO BE OUT ON A DIKE** is to be carefully attired for social purposes, such as making calls, or attending festivities. De Vere thinks the word is a corruption of "dight" (now obsolete), to be decked out. It is used both as a noun and a verb; in the former case it is applied alike to a man and to his dress.

**DILL, To**.—**TO SOOTHE**. Thought to be a corruption of "to dull." A North of England provincialism.

**DIME**.—A silver coin, worth ten cents or (about) fivepence.—**TO HAVE THE DIMES OF THE DOLLARS AND DIMES**, *i.e.*, to possess wealth, or, as English slang expresses it, "to have the pieces."

A sound on the gong, and the miser rose,  
And his laden coffer did quickly close,  
And lock secure. These are the times  
For a man to look after his **DOLLARS AND DIMES**.—*Henry Mill's Dimes and Dollars*.

—**DIME NOVELS**.—The "penny dreadfuls" of America. These are of the usual trashy, wishy-washy description.

The story of his crime, escape, and capture, is a strange one, and smacks somewhat of the **DIME NOVEL**.—*Missouri Republican*, Feb. 24, 1888.

**DING, DINGED**.—A Southern equivalent of the Northern **DARN** or **DARNED** (*q.v.*). The word enters into various combinations.

**DING-BAT**.—This word seems to be applied to anything that can be thrown with force or dashed violently at another object, from a cannon-ball to the rough's traditional 'arf brick, and from a piece of money to a log of wood. From the Icelandic *dengia*, to beat.

**DINGEE, DINKY.**—The tub-like boat which, in England, is known as the DINGY.

**DINGLING.**—Between two stools; insecure.

**DINING ROOM SERVANT.**—The butler of English households. This title is peculiar to the South.

**DIP.**—American cant for a pick-pocket, as well as for a stolen kiss, on the principle, it must be inferred, that the receivers of "illicit kisses" are often tempted to pick other people's pockets in order to pay for the same.

Long Point, on the Canadian side of Lake Erie, was the scene of these fights, as a landing could be easily effected from tugs and steamers, which were also available for fight. At one affair, a DIP touched the Canadian Sheriff for his watch and massive chain while he was reading the riot act.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, 1888.

—To DIP.—In thieves' slang, to pawn.—To DIP OR RUB SNUFF.—Of all the forms of taking tobacco, this is perhaps the most offensive and disgusting. It is practised—tell it not in Gath!—by women chiefly in the South, and the habit is said to have originated in the use of the narcotic as a powder for cleansing the teeth. The effect of *dipping* or rubbing the gums, which is performed by a split, brush-like stick, the end of which is wetted and dipped in snuff, is said to be similar to that which follows inhalation through the nostrils. At times the snuff is put into a small bag, which then forms a substitute for chewing gum. Altogether a delightful piece of feminine dissipation! The stick alluded to is called the RUBBING-STICK or SNUFF-SWAB, and the person who indulges in the practice is called a *dipper*.

This neat, orderly sin-exterminating woman RUBBED SNUFF. She kept a snuff-box in her right pocket, filled with the strongest and most pungent Scotch snuff, and she went about all day, brandishing a dangerous-looking, hickory stick, with a mop at the end of it, which she was constantly DIPPING into this huge, black, horn snuff-box. Then she would fill her mouth with load after load. At times, she would invite her few friends to come over and take a DIP.—*Putnam's Magazine*.

**DIPE.**—To GO ON THE DIPE (Cant).—To pick pockets. The pickpocket himself is called a DIP (*q.v.*).

i felt very rough and was thinking i would have to GO ON THE DIPE again, when i thought of what you once said about a fellow's calling on the Lord when he was in hard luck, and i thought i would try it once anyhow.—*Mark Twain's Life on the Mississippi*, p. 460.

**DIPPER.**—(1) A ladle-like utensil. —(2) The constellation of *Ursa major*. In both these senses *dipper* is a true Americanism.—(3) See under DIP.

**DIPSY.**—A sinker used in sea fishing. A Pennsylvanian localism. A corruption of "deep sea."

**DIRT.**—In employing *dirt* to signify earth, rag for linen, and rocks for stones, American usage varies very considerably from that of England. An unfloored cabin is spoken of as having a *dirt* floor; while DIRT, or LAND - HUNGER, merely signifies that which is popularly regarded as an unfailing antidote to radical ideas. The DIRT-CART is the dust-cart of London and other English cities, while an unmetalled road is designated a DIRT-ROAD. The gardener fills his flower-pots with *dirt*, and in the West the word means that which is dug, whether earth, clay, gravel, or other substances; thus miners talk of RICH DIRT, POOR DIRT, TOP DIRT, PAY DIRT,

the last named being simply earth that it pays him to work.

The inundashun carried the sile off my farm clean down to the rocks. Ther wasn't 'nuff DIRT left on 120 acres to put in your eye.—*American Humorist*, September 15, 1888.

Oh! fire away ye villains, and earn King George's shillin's,  
But ye'll waste a ton of powder afore a rebel falls;

You may bang the DIRT and welcome, they're as safe as Dan'l Malcolm,  
Ten foot beneath the gravestone that you've splintered with your balls!

—*Grandmother's Story of Bunker-Hill Battle*.

—Hence ON TOP OF DIRT in the idiomatic sense of "this side the grave"; BELOW DIRT being the last resting place of all that is mortal in man.

It's no use argufyin' the matter,—I'm the ugliest man now ON TOP OF DIRT. That's nary nuther like me.—*Widow Bagly's Husband*.

—To CUT DIRT.—A slang phrase which, in the sense of running away in haste, is evidently an outcome of the Yankee penchant for fast driving, where the *dirty* or earth flies in all directions under the action of the horse's feet.

Now, I say, old hoss, if you don't hurry up and cut DIRT like streak-lightnin', this child goes arter you, and you look out for a windin' sheet, you hear?—*Border Adventures*, p. 231.

—To EAT DIRT is to retract, or "eat humble pie"—the Yankee equivalent of "to eat one's words."

**DISCARD** (in Poker).—To take from your hand the number of cards you intend to draw, and place them on the table, near the next dealer, face upwards.—*The American Hoyle*.

**DISCIPLES OF CHRIST**.—This denomination, though known by a variety of names, such as Baptists, Reformed Baptists, Reformers, or Campbellites, have themselves

chosen the name of *Disciples of Christ*. The originator of the sect was a Mr. Thomas Campbell. A full account of the doctrines of this body will be found in Fullerton's *Faiths of the World*.

**DISFELLOWSHIP, To**.—To debar from the rights of fellowship or communion. Colloquial on both sides of the Atlantic in religious circles, but of American origin.

**DISGRUNTLED**.—Disconcerted; to have a spoke put in one's wheel; to be disappointed. The *Philadelphia Press* of January 29, 1888, in its "Old World" news, speaks of Bismarck as being *disgruntled* at his reverse in the Reichstag. So also in a contrary sense, UNDISGRUNTLED.

**DISREMEMBER, To**.—To fail to remember. An obsolete English vulgarism which is largely colloquial in the States, especially in the South and West.

'Mistoo Claude, I see a gen'leman dis day noon what I ain't see' befo' since 'bout six year' an' mo'. I DISREMEMBER his name, but—'

'Tarbox?' asked Claude with sudden interest.—*G. W. Cable's Au Large*.

**DISRESPECTABLE**.—For "disreputable." Despite its seeming orthodoxy, an entirely spurious word.

Nellie Thierauf asks to be divorced from Henry Thierauf. She alleges he associated with lewd and DISRESPECTABLE characters of both sexes.—*Republican St. Louis*, February 14, 1888.

**DISTRESSED**.—A term of commiseration; wretched; miserable. "Look at that *distressed* woman," *i.e.*, "poor thing," or if a man "poor devil."

**DISTRICT, To**.—(Pronounced dees-trick). To apportion a state into



electoral districts or counties. In connection with this, see *To GERRY-MANDER*. — *DISTRICT COURTS*. — Courts for the administration of the Civil Law; also for Admiralty cases. One judge presides over each Court. — *DISTRICT SCHOOL* and *DISTRICT SCHOOL-MASTER*. — The school and master, under the American free public school system.

**DITCH.**—*TO DIE IN THE LAST DITCH*. — This saying, which was much used by Confederates during the Civil War, is attributed to William, Prince of Orange.

**DITE.**—*I DON'T CARE A DITE, i.e., "not at all," or "not a little bit."* A New England survival; from "doit."

**DITTANY** (*Cunila mariana*).—A plant, the leaves of which are used for herb tea. A curious popular fancy is that its leaves always point to other plants of *dittany* near it.

**DITTY BAG.**—A sailor's "housewife" is so called.

**DIVE.**—A brothel.

A plot to entrap young women for the dives of Northern Wisconsin has been discovered at Eau Claire, Wis. Arrests are expected.—*Troy Daily Times*, February 7, 1888.

Worse than that even, and the man who robbed her of her money and cast her out to live a life of shame, was her husband's best friend. Even fallen women, when the rose is gone from their cheeks, are pushed aside, and from a gilded house to the lowest DIVE is the last and quickest step of all.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, February 27, 1888.

**DIVIDE.**—A water shed; that portion of a ridge which separates one ravine from another, and acts as a watershed, sending the waters from the slopes in different directions. Dodge says that all land which is

not level is *divide*, though this term is specially and technically applied to the summit or junction of the slopes arising from two contiguous ravines. Level land is either *MESA* (*q.v.*) or *BOTTOM* (see *BOTTOM LANDS*). The term *mesa* is applied to a level upland; bottom, to the level land bordering a stream and enclosed between the sides of the ravine. The line or ridge separating the waters of two streams not uniting with each other is called a principal *divide*. This is an undoubted Americanism, and one of genuine Western birth.

We began the long winding ascent of the canyon toward the *DIVIDE*. As day broke we journeyed down into the valley of the Lake, and, feeling secure, halted to cook breakfast, for we were tired and sleepy and hungry. Three hours later the rest of the population fled over the *DIVIDE* in a long procession.—*Mark Twain's Roughing It*.

The backbone of the *DIVIDE* separates Spring Garden from the well-known Owl creek and its tributaries, from which thousands of dollars were taken in the early days of mining.—*Placer Herald*, 1888.

**DIVORT.**—A watershed. An individualism of Dr. Antisell's of the Pacific Railroad Survey, who used it as specially implying elevation as the cause of separation, which *DIVIDE* (*q.v.*), he maintained, did not.

**DIXIE.**—*DIXIE'S LAND.*—*DIXIANIC.* — *I WISH I WAS IN DIXIE.*—The last named phrase is the refrain of many a song in which the popular fallacy, that *Dixie* relates to Southern institutions is perpetuated. The upsetting of old idols is always an ungracious task, but the real truth (as given in Putnam's *Record of the Rebellion*, i. 113), is that *Dixie* is an indigenous Northern negro refrain common upwards of eighty years ago. It was one of the every-day allusions of boys in New York at that time, when *Dixie's Land* was

associated with Manhattan Island. Only recently has it been erroneously supposed to refer to the South, from its connection with pathetic negro allegory. Its derivation was as follows:—

When slavery existed in New York, one DIXIE owned a large tract of land on Manhattan Island, and a large number of slaves. The increase of the slaves and the increase of the abolition sentiment, caused an emigration of the slaves to more thorough and secure slave sections, and the negroes who were thus sent off (many being born there), naturally looked back to their old houses, where they had lived in clover, with feelings of regret, as they could not imagine any place like DIXIE'S. Hence it became synonymous with an ideal locality combining ease, comfort, and material happiness of every description. In those days negro singing and negro minstrelsy were in their infancy, and any subject that could be wrought into a ballad was eagerly picked up; this was the case with DIXIE. It originated in New York, and assumed the proportions of a song there. In its travels it has been enlarged, and has gathered more; it has picked up a note here and there; a chorus has been added to it, and from an indistinct chant of two or three notes, it has become an elaborate melody.—*Charlestown Courier*, June 11, 1885.

See this new king who comes apace,  
And treats us like a conquered race:  
He comes from DIXIE'S LAND by rail,  
His throne a ragged cotton bale.

On to the White House straight  
He's marching,—rather late;  
Clanking along the land,  
The shackles in his hand.  
Hats off, hats off,

Ye slaves, of curs begotten,  
Hats off to great King Cotton.

—*R. H. Stoddard.*

Dar's a mighty famous Hunter in de partment of de Souf,—

An' he gubbers all ob DIXIE, as you know,

An' he talks to de darkies by de words of his mouf,—

Sayin': 'Niggers, you's at liberty to go!'

You may lay down de shobel an' de hoe-o-o!

You may dance with de fiddle an' de bow;

Dar is no more cotton for de contraband to pick,

Dar is no more cotton for to mow.

Chorus.—Den lay down, &c.

—*New York Sunday Times*, 1862.

**DIZZY.**—Used as in quotation.

There seems little likelihood of any professional beauties or maidens, commonly called pizzy blondes, attempting the hardships of a stage life this winter. The public can congratulate themselves; it was their own doing. For my own part, I never thought that a bath and a few Parisian toilets rendered a soiled society queen a fit subject for serious consideration.—*Texas Siftings*, September 29, 1888.

**Do.**—Instead of "do for," as "this pen *does* me," *i.e.*, will suit my purpose.

**DO AS I DO!**—A whilom invitation to drink.

**DOB, To.**—A corruption of "to dab."

The corpse said, whitewash his old canoe and dob his address and general destination on to it with a blacking brush and a stencil plate.—*Mark Twain's Screemers*.

**DOBBLER.**—The float attached to a fishing-line. New York.

**DOCIOUS.**—For "docile." A Southern survival of an English provincialism.

**DOCITY** (Pronounced dossity).—Aptness; quickness of wit. Used negatively, *e.g.*, "he has no docity." Like docious it is a survival in the South of a usage still provincial in some parts of England.

**DOCKMACKIE** (*Viburnum acerifolium*).—This plant was used medicinally by the Dutch for external application. Its properties were well known to the Indians long prior to the settlement of the country.

**DOCK WALLOPER.**—A New York term for an idle loiterer about the docks.

**DOCTOR.**—Jack's name for the cook on board-ship; hence probably

—To DOCTOR in its slang sense of to cook; to change; to modify. It is open to question whether either term can be classed among Americanisms.—Concerning DOCTRESS, however, there is no doubt, it being a creation resulting from a new need.

**DOD BURN IT!**—A euphemistic oath, formed on the same model as DABBINGED (*q.v.*).

'No, I can't forget her;' and, with an audible sob, he started as if in a trance, and, swinging his whip, yelled out at the mules with ungovernable fury, 'You git, DOD BURN you! What d'ye stand flopping yer ears for? Git!'—*Adventures in the Apache Country*, p. 50.

**DODFETCHED.**—This is also a thinly-veiled oath, the "Dod" being a corruption for God.

Then the poet was sore grieved, and he said unto himself, 'I'm a DODFETCHED fool. The Sultan sent money in the leaves, and verily I lacked sense to know it. I'll go down to Flynn's first, and then to my attic and kick myself.'—*Texas Siftings*, July 7, 1888.

—Of the same stamp is DODGASTED.

Dick leaned thoughtfully back in his chair. 'It's a DODGASTED funny thing, Uncle Zeke, but it's a fact, never knew it to fail; straight as a string, too.'—*Detroit Free Press*, 1888.

It is curious that these euphemisms, whose name in truth is legion, have mainly originated in the New England States, where the descendants of the Puritans form the largest portion of the population.

**DODGER.**—(1) A hard-baked cake or biscuit, more usually termed CORN-DODGER (*q.v.* under CORN). When mixed with beef they are called BEEF-DODGERS.—*See* BEEF.—(2) Handbills distributed in advance of Barnum's great moral show, otherwise vclept the Greatest Show upon Earth.—*See* BARNUMSE.

'Then I would have a great quantity of little DODGERS printed to throw around everywhere—Kate Bateman, the greatest living dramatic genius, is coming! or something like that. I would put out ten thousand at least.'

'Great Cæsar! Sir, two hundred thousand DODGERS are now—'—*Texas Siftings*, Sept. 15, 1888.

**DO DON'T!**—A negroism; but generally colloquial in the South for "don't."

**DODROTTED.**—A euphemistic oath.—*See* DABBINGED, DODFETCHED, etc.

'You ketch us with yer DODROTTED foolin,' says he; 'we hain't the kind to be fooled. We know what we're about afore we begin, we do. We hain't the sort to be tuck in by lawyers ur nobody else.'—*Century Magazine*, 1887.

**DOE-BIRD.** (*Numenius borealis*).—The New England name for the Esquimaux curlew.

**DOG.**—With many variations "dog" enters largely into the colloquial language of the American people.—(1) An iron instrument used by burglars.

The safe was rifled, and every appearance of robbery was manifest. In this case the murderer was discovered by means of a DOG, which was described in the newspapers as having certain peculiar scratches on it.—*American Humorist*, March 31, 1888.

—(2) DOGS for andirons is still current in New England. Lowell in a notesays that in Walter de Biblessworth, *chiens* is glossed in the margin by andirons.—To DOG, meaning to follow closely, and derived from the custom once prevalent in England of tracking fugitives by means of bloodhounds, is of course good old English, as also are a few other phrases in which the word appears. While, however, to DOG in England is now only used in its metaphorical sense, it was, until the abolition of slavery, employed in America as literally meaning to hunt with dogs.—



I'LL BE DOGGED IF, etc.—This may be derived either from the practice of hunting down men with dogs, thus affording a simile expressive of determination; or it may be a corruption of a form of oath in which the name of God is simply transposed. Hence also — DOGGAUNED or DOGGONED, which, in the South, is undoubtedly used as a substitute for strong language of a blasphemous character.

But when that choir got up to sing,  
I couldn't catch a word;  
They sung the most DOGGONDEST thing  
A body ever heard!  
—Will Carleton's *Farm Ballads*.

—In Texas and the West generally the expression is DOG MY CATS! A mere expletive, supposed to give force to a statement.

Why, DOG MY CATS! there must have been a house-full o' niggers in there every night for four weeks to have done all that work, Sister Phelps. Look at that shirt—every last inch of it rivered over with secret African writ'n done with blood!—*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

—A DOGGONED FIXEMENT is another Texan phrase applied to anything that is praiseworthy or acceptable.—To go THE WHOLE DOG—a West Indian variant of "to go the whole hog."—Dog-fish.—The mud fish of Western waters; also called the LAKE LAWYER. A voracious and ferocious-looking fish.—DOGGERY.—A grog shop, generally of a very low kind. Originally confined to the West and South, but now prevalent throughout the Union.

There was a crowd from the floating population of the river, and loose-footed, DOGGERY-haunting, dissipated renegades of the towns and villages all around. (*Autobiography*, p. 376.)

—DOG-POWER.—Used in the same manner as horse-power, steam-power; *i.e.*, "force" exerted

or produced by dogs. A relic of the old Dutch times, dogs being then used, as even now in the Low Countries, as beasts of burden.

—DOG'S AGE.—To be gone a DOG'S AGE is to be gone a long time.

—DOG SOLDIERS.—Dodge, in *Plains of the Great West*, p. 266 (speaking of the Indian tribal government), says, "Whatever the power or influence of chief and council, there is another power to which both have to yield on all matters on which it assumes the right of deciding. The first two may be said to represent the brains of the tribe or band; the latter represents its stomach. As brains are only occasionally called into requisition, while the demands of the stomach are incessant, the tribe is habitually under the control of this "third estate." This power is composed of all the hunters of the tribe, who form a sort of guild, from the decisions of which, in its own peculiar province, there is no appeal. Among the Cheyennes these men are called *dog soldiers*. The younger and more active chiefs are always enrolled among these *dog soldiers*, but do not necessarily command. The soldiers themselves command by *viva voce* determination on general matters, the details being left to the most renowned and sagacious hunters selected by them. Among these *dog soldiers* are many boys who have not yet passed the initiatory ordeal as warriors. In short, this guild comprises the whole working force of the band. It is the power which protects and supplies the women and children.

—DOG TOWNS or DOG VILLAGES.—The communities formed by the little marmot (*Cynomys ludovicianus*), miscalled the PRAIRIE-DOG, probably on account of its crisp, short, warning bark. Their dwellings, which are burrows thrown

up like little conical huts, are sometimes congregated in immense numbers, and seen, says C. A. Murray, in his *Prairie Rose*, in the dim light of a misty morning air, the little conical huts and grotesque dark figures by their side, look from a distance not unlike a village crowded with people sitting idle at their doors.

—DOGWOOD.—The popular name given to the CORNELL-TREE (*Cornus florida*) (*q.v.*) and to the POISON SUMAC (*Rhus venenata*). The former, a beautiful though small tree, covers American woods in early spring with a profusion of large, snowy-white flowers, and adorns them in autumn with scarlet berries, while its wood is useful for many purposes. The latter, an inmate of swamps, and well known by the beauty of its semi-tropical foliage, hides a violent poison in its leaves, and even affects susceptible persons who approach it too nearly.

**DOINGS, DOIN'S** (the *g* is not sounded in either form).—Brother Jonathan is "immense" in his *doings*. By this playfully non-committal term, he wisely, perhaps, designates all kinds of prepared food; preferring to say his grace "after" instead of "before meat." Sometimes he speaks of his daily fare as COMMON DOIN'S, to distinguish it from what with some grandiloquence he calls CHICKEN-FIXIN'S (*q.v.*). Then, again, he has GREAT DOIN'S and HARD DOIN'S, the one used in speaking of high days and holidays in which feasting plays a prominent part, and the other to the dark days of adversity, when, as Ruxton puts it, "the horses tails are eaten up by the mules."

If thar wasn't COLD DOIN'S about that time (in the mountains), this child wouldn't say so. Thar was no buffalo and no meat, and we had been livin' on our moccasins for weeks; and POOR DOIN'S that feedin' is.  
—*Ruxton's Life in the Far West.*

—In New England the question, How are the *doin's*? is an inquiry as to the state of the roads. It takes the form, How are the roads? in Virginia and the Southern States generally; while in New York it is, How is travelling? and in Massachusetts and Connecticut, How is the going?

**DOLESS.**—Probably a corruption of "dole-less," used colloquially for inefficient; lacking in manly qualities.

**DOLLAR.**—The principal silver coin of the United States, of the approximate value, in English money, of 4s. 2d. *Dollar* is a contraction of *thaler* (Low German *dahler*; Danish *daler*), and means "a valley"—English "dale." Brewer thus explains its derivation: The counts of Schlick, at the close of the fifteenth century, extracted from the mines at *Joachim's thal* (Joachim's valley) silver, which they coined into ounce-pieces. These pieces, called *Joachim's thallers*, gained such high repute that they became a standard coin. Other coins being made like them were called *thallers* only.—THE DOLLAR MARK, thus \$, has been the subject of considerable discussion. Its derivation is variously put as follows. (1) It is supposed to be a combination of the sign of U.S., the initials for the United States; (2) that it is a modification of the figure 8, the dollar being formerly called "a piece of eight," and designated by the character 8-8; (3) that it is a combination of H.S., the mark of the Roman unit; (4) that it is a combination of P and S, from the Spanish *peso duro*, which signifies "hard dollar." In Spanish accounts, *peso* is contracted by writing the S over the P, and placing it after the sum; (5) and lastly, that

it is taken from the Spanish dollar. At one time, on the reverse of the coin was a representation of the Pillars of Hercules, and round each pillar a scroll with the inscription *Plus ultra*. This device, it is thought, has, in course of time, degenerated into the sign which stands at present for American as well as Spanish dollars—\$. The scroll around the pillars represents the two serpents sent by Juno to destroy Hercules in his cradle.

**DOLLAR OF THE FATHERS.**—A catch cry, turned by opponents into the DOLLAR OF THE DADDIES, which was used during the remonetization agitation of 1877. The *Philadelphia Times*, of Nov. 10 and 17, 1887, remarks that "of all the unreasoning agitations of recent years the demand for the *dollar of the fathers* has been the most unreasoning and absurd. . . . There are people who must have "cheap money" of some kind, and when they cannot get cheap greenbacks they hit upon silver as a cheaper thing; and the *dollar of the fathers* is to be put through [Congress] with a shout. . . . It is commonly assumed in the discussion of the silver question that the old silver dollar, the *dollar of the fathers*, was a very popular coin; that the people have been unjustly deprived of its use; and that it ought to be restored to them. The truth is that there never was any real demand for silver dollars as currency; and it is not possible that there ever can be, except in semi-barbarous countries, where the value of money is estimated by its bulk.

**DOMESTICS.**—Cotton goods of American manufacture as distinguished from imported goods. Always used in the plural.

**DOMINIE.**—A minister of the Dutch Reformed Church is so called in some places. The Scotch *dominie* is a schoolmaster, the first "o" being short; in the American word the "o" is long.

**DONATE, To.**—A barbarous, unpleasant word, formed from *donation*. R. Grant Allen sharply criticises this monstrosity by saying that, instead of the simple and noble English in which the Omnipotent—the Giver of every good and perfect gift—has been described, there are some people who would like to call Him the Great Donator, because He *donates* every good and perfect donation. Its use in the sense of to give, present, grant, confer, etc., is at once indefensible and unnecessary.

At a meeting of the citizens of Newton, held last evening under a call of the mayor, the city council was asked to DONATE 1000 dols. to the Mt. Vernon sufferers.—*Missouri Republican*, Feb. 24, 1888.

The money thus DONATED to the bride—and this part of the ceremony might be continued for some days—was employed in furnishing the house of the wedded pair.—*Pinkerton's Mollie Maguires and Detectives*.

—DONATION PARTY. — Proctor, with characteristic brusquerie, defines this as a party collected to make presents to a clergyman where the parishioners are not generous enough to give him a sufficient salary. The party generally appear suddenly with their loads of presents,—edibles, bibbles and other good things,—request the temporary absence of the good man, set his table, fill his larder, and generally make themselves pleasantly officious. Sometimes, however, the clergyman is victimized when the number of mouths outrun the supplies brought. *Donation parties*, however, are not confined to clergymen; others,



not "so near to grace," are sometimes participants in them.

**DONE.**—In addition to the misuse of *done* for "did," a vulgarism which is common on both sides of the Atlantic, *done* is specially used adverbially in America, as an intensive, in a fashion which is quite unique. Though a corruption of negro origin, it is pretty general amongst all classes of society. The emphasis enshrined in "he's *done* gone and *done* it," could hardly be excelled. The word is met with in all kinds of odd combinations. "It's *done*" gone away, *i.e.*, disappeared altogether; if a person is *done* got anything, it may be taken for granted he has entered into possession beyond recall; while a *done* dead man would be looked upon as dead indeed. The word is constantly added to all verbs used in the past tense.

Tige was using me powerful rough, and had *DONE* whipped me; but pshaw! I never did holler.—*N. Y. Spirit of the Times*.

When I awoke in the morning, refreshed and re-invigorated, I asked for my friend. 'He *DONE* come down early,' was the laughing reply of Jupiter, who had burnished my boots till they shone as bright as his ebony face.—*Letters from the South*.

Aunt Chloe gives her ideas on politics as follows: De publicans hain't *DONE* used de colored folks right, nohow. Dey promis'd eb'ry ting and *done* nuffin. De Dem'crats promised nuffin' an'—dey keep der word!—*Texas Siftings*, October 13, 1888.

'What's dat gotter do wid payin' me dat seventy-five cents?'

'You is de most ignorant nigger eber I seed. Hit means dat de property hab *DONE* come inter de hands ob a receiver for de benefit of de preferred creditors, and I don't pay no moah old debts.'—*Texas Siftings*, October 6, 1888.

**DONKEY PARTY.**—An amusing parlor pastime. Black-board and chalk are provided, members of the party are blindfolded, and each in turn draws upon the board a representation of a portion of a don-

key's anatomy. The general effect is ludicrous in the extreme. The poor donkey often gets beheaded altogether, and by mischance he may appear to be making a meal off his own tail.

Recent announcement in the society column of a Baltimore paper: Mr. Matthews gave a *DONKEY PARTY* to the choir of the Lutheran Church on Saturday evening.—*Detroit Free Press*, 1888.

**DONOCK**, also **DONNOCK**.—A stone. Thought to be a humorous corruption of "dough nut," although some authorities point out that the word may be derived from the Gaelic *doirneag*, a stone of convenient size for throwing. Heard throughout the South-west; in the West it is *DORNICK*.

**DON'T KNOW AS I KNOW.**—A colloquialism heavily worked in some quarters. Said to be the nearest confession of ignorance to be got out of a Yankee.

**DOODLE.**—A contraction of *YANKEE DOODLE* (*q.v.*).—**DOODLE BUGS.**—A species of ground beetle. Bartlett confidently volunteers the information, that by calling *doodle* several times the bugs make their appearance. It is an open question as to which is most worthy of admiration—Mr. Bartlett, or the bugs.

**DOOM, To.**—An old-time New Englandism, signifying to tax at discretion. A man was *doomed* when he neglected to make a return of taxable property.

**DOOMAGE.**—This, under the laws of New Hampshire, is a penalty or fine for neglect.

**DOOR ROCK.**—All stones in America are rocks; to Western ears a door-

step may sound better if called a *door rock*.

**DOOR TENDER.**—A door-keeper or hall-porter. Doors, the bars of drinking saloons, etc., are, in America, *tended*, not *kept*, as in England.

The **DOOR TENDER**, James Lathrop, hurried into the lobby to find it filled with smoke.—*Philadelphia Press*, 1888.

**DOOTEROOMUS.**—A slang term for money; the word is often shortened into **DOOT**.

**DORIAN HIVE.**—New England. Like the Dorians of ancient Greece the New Englanders are chiefly a pastoral people—plain, cheerful, chaste, and solid in character.

There was the Yankee, moving on with that resistless energy which distinguishes the emigrant from our **DORIAN HIVE**.—*J. H. Beadle's Western Wilds*, 1878.

**DORY.**—A fisherman's boat.

**DOTED.**—This term, in the South and West, is applied alike to objects animate and inanimate. Cloth that is *doted* is rotten and unserviceable—spoiled.

**DO TELL!**—A senseless catch-phrase, lugged in everywhere, in season and out of season. The **DOWN EASTER's dew tell** is supposed to be expressive of surprise and wonder; as a matter of fact, it forms a very useful non-committal interjection for listeners who feel that some remark is expected of them; it is thus equivalent to the "really?" "indeed?" of English people. A similar phrase in the South is the Old English, "You don't say so?" which a Yankee will vary by, "I wan't to know!" *Do tell* is also used as a decoy, with inex-

perienced narrators of the Munchausen type, who, if "green" enough, will be lured to repeat the story over and over again, by the blandly suave *do tell!*

**DOUBLE ENDER.**—A special build of gun-boat was so called, during the Civil War, on account of its being rounded both fore and aft.

**DOUBLE HORSE.**—**DOING DOUBLE HORSE** is doing or being two things at a time; double-facedness.

**DOUBLE RIPPER.**—Two sleds fastened by a plank. A more effective way of endangering one's neck could hardly have been designed.

**DOUGH-FACES.**—A political nickname, which seems generally to mean a politician who is open to influence personal or otherwise—mostly "otherwise." Primarily, however, by *dough-faces* are understood those who, in the North, were favorable to slavery, and at the same time, in the South, those who favored the North were equally honored with the epithet. J. Russell Lowell speaks of the *dough-face* as "a contented lick-spittle, a common variety of Northern politicians."

They think they're a kind o' fulfillin' the prophecies,  
Wen' they're on'y jest changin' the holders of offices;  
Ware A sot afore, B is comf'tably seated,  
One humbug's victor'ous, an' t'other defeated.  
Each honnoble **DOUGH-FACE** gets jest what he axes,  
An' the people,—their annoal soft-sodder an' taxes.

—*Biglow Papers*, I. 4.

*Thurlow Reed's Memoir* (vol. ii, p. 427) contains the following note in elucidation of the origin of the term.

In 1838 the Democratic Congressmen from the Northern States decided in caucus in favor of a resolution requiring all petitions relating to slavery to be laid upon the table without debate. This identified the party as it then existed with the slave-holding interest, and its Northern representatives were stigmatized as DOUGH-FACES.

John Randolph, a senator from Virginia, appears to have been the first to use the term. Speaking from his seat in Congress, he branded this baser sort of Northern demagogues as DOE-FACES in allusion to the timid startled look of that animal, which is said to shrink from the reflection of its own face in the water.

When that scornful Roanoke artist placed his branding-iron on the base brows of this whole race of demagogues, he exclaimed, in slow, sharp, quaint intonations of voice, so peculiarly his own—"It is not in our own strength that we of the South have always conquered you of the North. We have done it by using your own DOUGH-FACES (sic) your DOUGH-FACES! (sic). They are dirty dogs. They will eat dirty pudding."—*Memorial of George Bradburn*, Boston, 1883, p. 138.

—Hence DOUGH-FACISM, to signify a truckling policy.

**DOUGH HEAD.**—An idiot; fool; soft-pate.

**DOUGHIES.**—Explained by quotation.

At first our conversation touched only the usual monotonous round of subjects worn threadbare in every cow-camp. A bunch of steers had been seen travelling over the scoria buttes to the head of Elk Creek; they were mostly Texan DOUGHIES—a name I have never seen written, it applies to young immigrant cattle—but there were some of the Hash-Knife four-year-olds among them. —*Century Magazine*, October, 1888.

**DOUGHNUT.**—A popular delicacy—flour, eggs, sugar and milk, rolled into balls and fried in lard.

The table was always sure to boast of an enormous dish of balls of sweetened dough, fried in hog's fat, and called DOUGHNUTS or olykacks. —*Knickerböcker's New York*.

**DOVE** for dived. This is the old form for the past tense.

Straight into the river Kwasind  
Plunged as if he were an otter,  
Dove as if he were a beaver.

—*H. W. Longfellow's Hiawatha, Canto VII.*

I stood on the extreme end of Howard's ocean pier at Atlantic City, when three strong swimmers dove under the outer roller, and began to disport themselves outside the surf.—*Detroit Free Press*, September, 1888.

**DOWN.**—A peculiar usage of *down*, unaccompanied by a preposition, prevails in New England, as, for example, *down cellar*, for "down in the cellar," so also *up garret* for "up in the garret." —**TO BE DOWN UPON.** —To seize with avidity; also, in reference to persons, to be influenced by dislike or enmity. —**TO DOWN.**—To humble, to reduce to submission. In this sense it was used by Sidney—"To down proud hearts." Quite obsolete in England, but occasionally heard in America.

I drew my horsewhip and told the negro if he attempted to close the gate, I would down him.—*Rev. P. Cartwright's Autobiography*, p. 206.

We had a run of very nearly two hours before we DOWNED the fox, as the dogs lost the scent at one time and led us a chase over many useless miles. My cousin and I were in at the death, and drew straws for the brush.—*American Humorist*, Oct. 27, 1888.

—**DOWN COUNTRY.**—The region round and about the mouth of a river or near the sea. Compare with **UP COUNTRY.**—**DOWN EAST.**—The Yankee's Mecca. *Down East* is the place in all the States where alone a man can be born, live, or die with any degree of credit to himself. The true *Down East* is a shifting locality, but taking the Union as a whole the Eastern or New England States are generally understood by the term.—**DOWN-EASTER.**—From the foregoing it will be seen that the only



true believers are those who can lay claim to this title in its most restricted sense.—*See ABOUT EAST.*

The people of Calais never saw a genuine living and moving millionaire till Uncle Russell Sage went down there the other day to buy the Grand Southern Railroad. With true DOWN EAST hospitality a son of the hotel landlord hitched up a span of horses and gave Millionaire Sage a delightful ride about town.—*Lewiston Journal*, July, 1888.

Hiram Mason was . . . the son of a minister . . . whose vigorous and rather boisterous youth was ever a source of bewilderment, and even a cause of grief, to the minds of regular DOWN-EASTERS.—*Ed. Egglestone's The Grayson's*.

—DOWN ON STYLE.—Out of the common.

He was the most DOWN ON STYLE of any remains I ever struck.—*Mark Twain's Screemers*.

—DOWNTOWN.—The business portion of a city.

Washington, February 7.—Speaker Carlisle has ordered that the wires used exclusively for stock purposes be taken out of the corridors of the house. The understanding is that there are two of these. There is besides a telephone connection with a DOWNTOWN broker's office, which is also likely to be removed.—*Troy Daily Times*, February 7, 1888.

Mr. George D. Baremore, a well-known DOWNTOWN merchant, was found dead with his legs sticking out of a drift in Fifty-fourth street, within three blocks of his home.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, March 14, 1888.

—DOWN-TOWNY.—Not good "form," or *à la mode*—what in the miserable puny fashionable cant of the day is dubbed as "vulgar," by men and women who have yet to learn the A B C of the ethics of the new Democracy.

**DOXOLOGISE, To.**—Webster quotes this as: "to give glory to God as in doxology; to praise by singing *doxologies*."

**DOZY.**—Timber, in Pennsylvania, is said to be *dozy* when decay has set

in. Like a sleepy pear, it may, to outward appearance, be perfectly sound, and yet quite unfit for use.

**D. Q.**—On the *dead quiet*—a phrase of the strict Q. T. order, which is often met with in newspapers and in conversation.

**DRAG.**—The Eastern harrow is a *drag* in the West, while the Northern New England farmer's *drag* becomes a *STONE-BOAT (q.v.)* further West.—**DRAG-DRIVERS.**—A cowboy's name for a herdsman who follows in the rear of a herd of cattle to drive up the stragglers.

Two men travel along with the leaders, one on each side, to point them in the right direction; one or two others keep by the flanks, and the rest are in the rear to act as *DRAG-DRIVERS* and hurry up the phalanx of reluctant weaklings. If the foremost of the string travels too fast, one rider will go along on the trail a few rods ahead, and thus keep them back so that those in the rear will not be left behind.—*Century Magazine*, 1887.

—**DRAG OUT.**—(1) In pugilistic parlance, a knock down and *drag out* is a fight carried to extremities.—(2) Southern for a bully.

**DRAGGED-OUT.**—Exhausted; fatigued. Used colloquially, like *fagged out* or *fagged*.

**DRAINS.**—The tributaries of the larger rivers are so called.

[W. Irving thus spoke of them:] About noon, the travellers reached the *DRAINS* and brooks that formed the head-waters of the river.—*Astoria*, II., p. 254.

**DRATTED.**—Proctor rightly excludes "drat it!" from his list of Americanisms, and takes exception to Bartlett's treating it as such, for, says he, while fully admitting that many expressions often used in England are properly classed as Americanisms, if much oftener heard on the other side of the

Atlantic, he draws the line at *drat* it, for there is no part of England, scarcely a house in England, where this singularly elegant expression of feminine wrath is not occasionally heard. This objection, however, does not apply to *dratted*, a word which Americans derive from *drat*. *Dratted* is but a silver-coated oath.

This is a *DRATTED* piece of business, and I wish we were well out of it.—*Judge Longstreet's Georgia Scenes*.

**DRAW, TO** (In poker).—After discarding one or more cards, to receive a corresponding number from the dealer.—*The American Hoyle*.

**DRAW IT MILD!**—An obigation to exercise care and caution. Probably as frequently used in England as in the States.

**DREADFUL.**—As hardly-worked an adjective as *AWFUL* (*q.v.*). Applied to things by no means *dreadful* in themselves, and in truth, the epithet might more properly be applied to this manner of speech. It is used in the sense of very; exceedingly—whenever a statement requires an extra amount of bolstering.

**DRESS.**—An American lady never speaks of her gown; with her it is always a *dress*. In England a society lady of to-day would shudder at calling this article of attire anything but "a gown," or it may be "a frock." It is simply, however, a matter of fashion.—**DRESSING.**—A term applied to the sauces, gravies, stuffings, and other condiments which accompany fish, flesh, and fowl.

**DRINK.**—Primarily, a river. People in the South-western States call

the river Mississippi "the big *drink*." It has also latterly been applied to the Atlantic. Shakspeare uses the word in a somewhat similar sense when speaking of Ophelia:—

Till that her garments, heavy with her  
DRINKS,  
 Pul'd the poor wretch . . .  
 To muddy death.

**DRINKS.**—**AMERICAN DRINKS.** If there is one thing above another upon which Uncle Sam prides himself it is the variety and seductiveness of the national beverages. Bartlett gives a list which, indeed, contains rather more than one variety for every day in the year, and quotes as his authority an advertisement and a book on mixed liquors. An American friend assures the writer that the advertisement in question must have appeared in a special edition of the *Noah's Ark Chronicle*, so incomplete is the list at the present day. As for the book, it may have suited the requirements of such provincial and countrified places as New York, Boston, or the Hole in the Sky at Washington, but it by no means exhausted the resources of civilization in the West. **APPLE-JACK** and **APPLE-TODDY**, indeed! why, their simplicity and hoary antiquity are only equalled by that of the modest **BRANDY FLIP** or **SHANDY-GAFF**. The vigorous vernacular of the West has changed all that, and nothing short of a **DEACON'S PALAVER**, a **PHLEGM-CUTTER**, or a **DEAD-AND-GONE** will now satisfy the national thirst. These may be varied by draughts of **MORAL SUASION**, **STAGGER JUICE**, or **TURPENTINE WHISKEY**, to say nothing of the **QUICK AND THE DEAD**. Even **Pousse Café** is out of date, and the nearest to **CATS!** is a decoction compounded of **PANTHER'S BREATH** with **SOUR MASH SAP** and **'LASSES TRIMMIN'S**. In

very truth the list is interminable. Appended will be found a few—the word is written advisedly—of the thousand and one forcible, if not always seductive, *aliases* under which the demon *drink* manages to enthrall its votaries.

Agent, Apple Jack, Apple Toddy, Baldface, Black Jack, Brandy Champerele, Brandy Fix, Brandy Flip, Brandy Smash, Brandy Straight, Brandy Toddy, Bust Head, Bug Juice, Corn Juice, Ching Ching, Chain Lightning, Citronella Jam. COBBLERS, viz.—Arrack, Brandy, Claret, Champagne, Catawba, Hock, Rochelle, Peach, Sherry, Sauterne. COCKTAILS, viz.—Brandy, Champagne, Gin, Japanese, Jersey, Soda, Whiskey, Deadbeat, Deacon, Exchange, Egg Flip, Egg Nog, Egg Sour, Floater, Fiscal Agent, Fusil Oil, Gin Straight, Gin Fix, Gin Punch, Gin Sling, Gin Sour, Gin Smash, Gin Flip, Gin Rooster-Tail. JULEPS, viz.—Arrack, Brandy, Capped, Claret, Fancy, Gin, Mixed, Peach, Pine Apple, Mint, Racehorse, Strawberry, Whiskey. I O U—Jewett's Fancy, Knickerbocker, Lemonade, Mead, Moral Suasion, Ne Plus Ultra, Orgeat, Lemonade, Pine Top, Porteree, Phlegm Cutter, Port-Wine Sangaree, Port-Wine Negus, Polk and Dallas, Pousse Café. PUNCHES, viz.:—Arrack, Gin, Claret, Brandy, Epicure's, Iced, Milk, Pig and Whistle, Poor Man's, Roman, Rum, Soda, Spiced, Sherry, Sauterne, Vanilla, Seventh Regiment, St. Charles, Whiskey, Ropee, Santa Cruz Sour, Sargent, Sherry and Egg, Sherry and Bitters, Shandy Gaff, Shambro, Silver Top, Sling Flip, Snap Neck, Snifter, Smasher, Split Ticket, Stone Wall, Stagger Juice, Switchel Flip, Tangle Leg, Tip and Ty, Tippee na Pecco, Toddy, Tog, Tom and Jerry, Turpentine Whiskey, Vox Populi, Veto, Virginia Fancy, Whiskey Flip, Whiskey Toddy, Whiskey Julep, Whiskey Fix, Whiskey Punch, Whiskey Smash, Whiskey Skin, Whiskey Sour, Whiskey Straight, Eye-opener, Appetizer, Digestor, Big Reposer, Refresher, Stimulant, Ante-Lunch, Settler, A la Smythe, Cobbler, Social Drink, Invigorator, Solid Straight, Chit Chat, Fancy Smile, Entire Act, Sparkler, Rouser, Night Cap.

**DRIVE.**—(1) A ROUND-UP (*q.v.*).—(2) In Maine and Canada a collection of logs brought together near a stream ready for floating.—**DRIVER.**—(1) A *driver* is the foreman of a gang of laborers on a plantation. On some estates the title of foreman is coming into use, the negroes

objecting to the old word.—(2) A lumberman's term for one who directs the passage of logs to navigable waters. This process is called DRIVING THE RIVER.—**DRIVEWAY.**—(1) A road set apart for wheeled traffic as distinguished from the side walk or footpath.

These vaults . . . [in the cemetery at New Orleans] are architecturally graceful and shapely; they face the walks and DRIVEWAYS of the cemetery; and when one moves through the midst of a thousand or so of them, and sees their white roofs and gables stretching into the distance on every hand, the phrase city of the dead has, all at once, a meaning to him.—*Mark Twain's Life on the Mississippi*, p. 384.

—(2) A covered approach to churches, public buildings, and mansions.

The outside appearance of the house, with arched entrances and DRIVEWAYS, turned gables and antique battlements, presented a graceful and striking appearance.—*Philadelphia Press*, 1888.

—**DRIVING THE NAIL.**—A favorite amusement amongst cowboys and plainmen, and one which serves, not only as an opportunity for showing skill with the rifle, but also as an excuse for betting. A stout nail is driven into a post, about half-way up to the head; the riflemen then stand at a great distance, and fire at the nail, the object being to hit the nail so truly on the head with the ball as to drive it home. At another time, it is threading the needle; an auger-hole is pierced through the centre of an upright board, just large enough to allow the ball to pass, and the best marksman is he who drives his ball through without enlarging the orifice!—**DRIVING PARK.**—A race-course. One would think Americans are not in the habit of calling spades spades, so frequently do half-and-half phrases of this kind occur. Bartlett calls it a euphemism, he most likely meant an absurdity.



**DUK O' DARBY.**—The BOBOLINK (*q.v.*).

**DULL MUSIC.**—Anything tedious is said to be *dull music*.

**DULLY.**—Stupidly. An uncouth and needless form.

**DUMB-BETTY.**—A washing machine.

**DUMB CHILL OR AGER** (*q.v.*).—A form of intermittent fever.

**DUMFOUNDERED.**—The English form is dumbfounded. The Yankees prefer the Scotch *dumfoundered*.

**DUMMERHEAD.**—A blockhead; from the German *dummkopf*. Common in Pennsylvania, and other localities where the German element prevails.

**DUMP, To.**—To cast or shoot down in a heap; a good old English word, which can only be reckoned an Americanism from its much more frequent use by Americans than by English people. Hardly a paper can be taken up, in which the word does not occur over and over again.

You know the usual custom was to DUMP a poor devil like him into a shallow hole, and then inform his friends what had become of him.—*Mark Twain's Screemers*.

So also IN THE DUMPS OR DUMPY.

—DUMP CART.—A vehicle which tilts from the front.—DUMPING GROUND.—Land upon which rubbish may be shot.—DUMPAGE.

—The fee paid for shooting rubbish upon vacant spaces.

**DUNFISH.**—A superior kind of dried cod-fish, so called from its colour.

In curing, the fish are first salted, and then laid in piles in a dark room, covered with salt hay or other similar substances. After two or three months the piles are opened and the fish examined, after which they are piled up once more in a compact mass, and left to ripen for another two or three months. In July or August they are ready for use, and command a high price, being far superior to ordinary cod-fish. J. G. Whittier describes an old puritan's outfit thus:

They had loaded his shallop with DUNFISH and ball,  
With stores for his larder and steel for his wall.

—The process is called DUNNING.

**DUNGAREE.**—In New York and Connecticut waters a vessel used for the transportation of dung, whence its name.

**DUNKY.**—Excessively thick; badly proportioned; and clumsily-shaped.

**DUNNOW'Z I KNOW.**—*Dunnow'z* (do not know as) *I know*, says J. R. Lowell, "is the nearest your true Yankee ever comes to acknowledging ignorance."

**DURHAM BOAT.**—A flat-bottomed boat formerly in use; it was propelled by punting.

**DURN, DURNED.**—Relief words.

You know that clay-bed over back of the East Lot? I'll bet I could make as good-lookin' a burst as any o' these,—an' mebbe a DURN sight better.—*Portland Transcript*, 1888.

**DUSKY GROUSE.**—This bird has a variety of names, being called in different parts of the country the

BLUE GROUSE, the BLACK GROUSE, and the MOUNTAIN GROUSE. He is found almost everywhere in the mountainous regions of the great West, between an altitude of about 6,000 feet and the snow line. Though a fine large bird, second only to the SAGE GROUSE, and most delicious as food, he affords less sport to the hunter than any other of the *grouse* family. In his habits he differs entirely from other *grouse*. He is solitary, never being found in packs after the brood has been weaned by the mother bird. He frequents jungles and pine or quaking-aspen thickets; will not lie to the dog, nor fly from the hunter. He is usually found on the ground, but when disturbed takes refuge on a branch of the nearest tree, and will sit still, though the hunter approach within a few feet. He gives no opportunity for wing-shooting, for if driven from his perch, he seeks another a few feet off, or darts off among the thick branches of the pine in a rapid and tortuous flight, sufficient to baffle the quickest aim.—*Dodge's Plains of the Great West*, p. 227.

**DUST.**—TO GET UP AND DUST.—To move about quickly; also to castigate. Texas.

The following marriage licenses were granted yesterday, but do not include the names of three more young, quite young couples, who were refused a license by Recorder Hobbs. Two boys who applied for licenses with young girls were not backward in giving their ages as 19 and 18, respectively. In fact, they became angry when told they could not marry their sweethearts. Recorder Hobbs said yesterday that he was getting tired of these young people bothering him—puppy love couples, he calls them—and threatens to take the next pair home to their parents and see the dust fly.—*Missouri Republican*, March 27, 1888.

**DUTCH.**—A corruption of *Deutsch*, German. Throughout the Union

the Dutchman is thus confounded with the German. There is, however, excuse for the confusion. Archbishop Trench tells us that, "Till late in the seventeenth century, Dutch meant (in England) generally German, and a Dutchman a native of Germany, while what we now term a Dutchman would have been named a Hollander." Quaint old Fuller said accordingly, "At the same time began the Teutonic order, consisting only of Dutchmen, well descended." (*The Holy War*, II., c. 16.) It can, moreover, be pleaded in excuse that the German immigrants themselves but too readily acquiesced in the designation, and adopted it themselves. Thus, e.g., the first English almanac ever printed in the German form was published by John Gruber, a native of Strasburg, under the title of "*Dutch - English Almanac*." — **DUTCH CURSE.**—The field daisy, but why called a *curse* is hardly conceivable—surely not because, as Bartlett says, of its annoyance to farmers.—**THAT BEATS THE DUTCH** is an exclamation still common in all parts of the Union to indicate surprise. It has been traced back for more than a century, and is either a reference to the sturdy hardihood displayed by people of that nationality, at a time when their naval superiority had not altogether disappeared; or its derivation must be looked for in the English slang usage in which the word *Dutch* is synonymous with ludicrous sounds, undesirable relations, and false valor. (Double Dutch, Dutch concert, Dutch consolation, Dutch courage, Dutch feast, Dutch uncle). In the latter case *that beats the Dutch* may mean, by a species of transition very common with colloquialisms of the kind, a mode of bestowing praise on objects not

altogether unworthy; thus *Dutch* courage—false courage; *ergo*, that *beats the Dutch* signifies that the matter under discussion is, to say the least, genuine of its kind; or, assuming the reference to be sarcastic, that even the mockery of *Dutch* valour, is surpassed. The whole subject is, however, confessedly obscure.

**DUTIABLE.**—Liable to duty; a term which, in the United States, never represents the tax levied on real estate or farmers' stock. The word, which came into use with the first tariff, has proved eminently useful, and is universally adopted.

The following articles shall be **DUTIABLE** hereafter at the fixed rates.—*Act of Congress*, 1865.







**EAGLE.**—A gold coin, worth ten dollars (£2. 1s. 8d). It takes its name from its device of an eagle, which is also the national emblem. Other gold coins are double, half, and quarter *eagles*.

**EAR.**—TO GET UP OR GO OFF ON ONE'S EAR.—To bestir oneself; to rouse oneself to a great effort.

They called me bully boy, altho' I've seen nigh three-score years,  
And said that I was lightning when I got UP ON MY EAR.

—*Galveston News*.

—**EAR-BOB.**—An ear-drop; one of the marks in branding cattle.

—**See BRAND.**—**EAR-MARK.**—In localities where the grazing grounds are largely held in common, it is necessary, for purposes of identification, that cattle and stock generally should be marked, as evidence of proprietorship. Amongst such brands, the *ear-mark* takes its place. On the monster cattle ranges of the West, however, the animals are usually branded on the hip, shoulder, and side, or any one of them. In some States, branding is compulsory.—**See BRAND.**

**EARTH ALMOND** (*Cyperus esculentus*).—A reed-like plant which, indigenous to Spain, was introduced by the Department of Agriculture into the South where it has been grown for many years. Also called **CHUFA**.

**EARTH-NUT** (*Arachnis hypogaea*).—This is the pea-nut of the South, the negro name in Florida being **PINDER**, while in Virginia and North Carolina it is known as the **GOOBER**. It is called the *earth-nut* because of its peculiar habit of ripening its pods by burying them underground after flowering.

**EAST.**—One of the chief divisions into which, colloquially, the Union is divided. Roughly speaking, this partition follows the points of the compass—the North, South, East, and West, and since the purchase of New Mexico, and the incorporation of Texas, etc., the South-west. This classification is, of course, a rough-and-ready one, and a more complete division, based on distinctions of position and resources will be found under **POLITICAL DIVISIONS** (*q.v.*). *East*, signifying the New England States as the centre of intelligence and learning, will be found dealt with in **ABOUT EAST** and **DOWN EAST** (*q.v.*).

**EASTERN STATES.**—The New England States. These are Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. Broadly speaking they are the manufacturing centres of the Union, commerce holding the second place, while agriculture comes last. They form part of the original thirteen States.

**EAT, TO.**—To provide with food; to provision. Used in this sense, *to*

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*eat* is an old friend with a new face indeed. It is a Western barbarism, "to sleep" being used in much the same way; *e.g.*, a steamer is alleged to be able to *eat* 400 passengers and sleep about half that number. This certainly is pretty good going for verbal gymnastics.

Hoosier—"Squire, what pay do you give?" Contractor—"Ten bits a day."

Hoosier—"Why, Squire, I was told you'd give us two dollars a-day and *EAT* us."—*Pickings from the Picayune*, p. 47.

—Proctor remarks that sometimes a host may *eat* his guests in another sense. He once, when staying at an hotel, found a finely-colored motto rather unfortunately spelt; it ran, "Watch and Prey." Its owner, he says, carried out the idea.

**EBENEZER.**—To RAISE ONE'S EBENEZER.—To put oneself *en évidence*—in Biblical parlance, to set one's light on the top of a hill, and not hide it under a bushel. To *raise one's Ebenezer* is of Puritan origin.

**EBONY.**—An *ebony* is a negro in common parlance.

**ECCENTRIC.**—Probably only an individualism. This word, says De Vere (as this deponent knows nothing thereof, he says as much concerning the expression), has, in Western parlance, obtained a curious meaning, which threatens to spread in spite of its absurdity. "I want my land down to the *eccentric*," said an illiterate man in Illinois, objecting to the reservation of mining rights under his purchase.

**EDDOES** (*Arum esculentum*).—A tuber which enters largely into the food supply of the West Indies. Also called *cocos*.

**EDIBLES.**—See BIBIBLES.

**EDITORIAL.**—If ever this word was a genuine Americanism, it has long since passed into the common speech of the old country. The same remark applies to—

**EDUCATIONAL** and **EDUCATION**, both of which are classed as Americanisms by Bartlett and De Vere.

**EEL GRASS** (*Zostera marina*).—A grass which is not a grass but a sea-weed, and which is said to derive its name from its inhabitants! SEA-WRACK is another name for it.

**EEL-SKIN.**—A device which the author of the National Anthem must have had in view when he wrote the couplet associating "tricks" with "politics":—

Confound their politics,  
Frustrate their knavish tricks.

Of all the dark and devious ways of the ballot this was (for the practice is hardly possible now) perhaps the darkest and most "vain." An *eel-skin* was a thin slip of gummed paper, on one side of which was printed a candidate's name, and employed to falsify the ballot, being secretly used to obliterate the name of an opponent. Bartlett cites New Englanders and New Yorkers as the chief sinners at this merry little game; possibly he knew.

**EEL-SPEAR.**—The eel-shear of English fishermen.

**E'ENAMOST.**—A New England dialecticism for "almost."

The dandy run, and the gals snickered out, and the fellers hawhawed till they was E'ENAMOST dead, to see him marvell down the road.—*Hill's Yankee Stories*.

**EGG, To.**—(1) A playful method of signifying disapprobation; to pelt with eggs.

The man, a black abolitionist of the deepest dye, was EGGED out of town last night, and will find it safer, we venture to say, not to show himself again.—*Kansas Paper*, 1860.

— (2) See PECULIARITIES OF PRONUNCIATION.

**EGG-NOG.**—Eggs, cream, and brandy mixed together.—See DRINKS.

This is the first time in my life that I ever heard of people warmin' themselves up with hens' eggs and spirits, except when mixed up into EGG-NOG.—*Century Magazine*, 1888.

**EGYPT.**—A sobriquet given to Southern Illinois. The origin of the nickname is appropriately somewhat obscure. The inhabitants themselves derive it from the fertility of the land in which they live, whilst enemies rather unkindly aver that the allusion is to the crass ignorance and mental darkness there prevalent. Criticizing these theories, Proctor remarks he should imagine that anyone who had seen the region around Cairo in the good old times (remember that Cairo was the Eden of "Martin Chuzzlewit") would need no explanation. Probably Cairo was so called because the region around Cairo in Egypt, after an inundation of the Nile, looked about as forbidding as the region around Cairo in Illinois looked all the time.

The lumber we get from Illinois is from the central portion of the State, along the Indianapolis and St. Louis Railroad. The northern part of the State is prairie, dark in soil and low, until one reaches the extreme northern limit, where hills and pine begin to appear. The southern part of the State, popularly known as EGYPT, is full of sand hills and jack oak, neither being very profitable to anybody.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, January 20, 1888.

**EIGHTEEN-CARAT DESPERADO.**—A ruffian of the deepest dye.

**ELDENT HAND OF ACE** (In Poker).—The player immediately at the left of the dealer.—*The American Hoyle*.

**ELECT, To.**—The Yankee not only elects his officers of State, but also any given course which seems right and proper for him to pursue. For example, given a choice between two roads a person may *elect* to take either. This use of the word is gradually creeping into English literature.

**ELECTORAL COMMISSION.**—In order to decide between disputed election returns sent from Florida, Louisiana, Oregon and South Carolina during the Presidential campaign of 1876, a special tribunal was created by Congress, January 29, 1877, under the above title. As appointed by Congress, it consisted of four Justices of the Supreme Court (two Republicans and two Democrats), five Senators (three Republicans and two Democrats), and five Representatives (two Republicans and three Democrats). The four Justices were directed to select a fifth, whose district was specified, though he was not named. The Hon. David Davis, of Illinois, would, in the natural order, have been chosen, and upon his vote in the Commission, the Democrats confidently counted. Just as the Commission was organized however, January 25th, 1877, Judge Davis was elected to the United States Senate, and thereby disqualified from serving on the Commission. The eligible Justices were all Republicans, and the Hon. Joseph P. Bradley was chosen. Upon him, therefore, fell the weighty responsibility of the

casting-vote, on matters which the national Congress had confessed itself unable to decide, and which threatened to precipitate a civil war. It is impracticable here to give a detailed account of what followed. A good summary will be found in Lalor's *Cyclopædia of Political Science*, and the proceedings are published in full in the *Congressional Record*, part iv., vol. v., 1877. In brief, the Commission decided that it could not go behind the Governor's certificate in the cases submitted. This rule of procedure was so worded, however, that a majority (Republican) of the Commissioners held that in the case of Oregon, where the Governor had certified *incorrectly*, it (the Commission) was competent to correct the certificate in accordance with the laws of the States. This ruling gave Mr. Hayes, the Republican candidate for the Presidency, a majority of one vote in the Electoral College (*see* ELECTORS), he receiving 185, while Mr. Tilden, the Democratic candidate, received 184 votes.

**ELECTORS.**—The President is not chosen by a direct vote of the people. The voters of each State choose as many *electors* as the State has representatives in both Houses of Congress. These meet and vote for President and Vice-President, under certain constitutional restrictions. Collectively, these *electors* are known as "the Electoral College," though this term is not recognized as an official designation in the Constitution, and was not used, even informally, until about 1821. Many of the clearest-headed statesmen now living believe that a direct vote would more fairly represent the popular will.

**ELEGANT.**—This adjective is much affected by Americans in describing what, in England, would be characterised as "substantial" or of first-rate quality. Everything is *elegant* from a mountain down to one's stockings.

**ELEPHANT.**—TO SEE THE ELEPHANT. —To see the world; to gain knowledge by experience. The cost is oftentimes understood to be more than the thing is worth. The expression conveying the idea of just a dash of "wild oats" and the "prodigal son."

Strange, isn't it, that so many countrymen who come to New York TO SEE THE ELEPHANT will go and fight the tiger.—*New York Commercial Advertiser*.

It was in a Hanover Street dispensary, where the tillers of the soil love to congregate, when they are down to Boston, inspecting the Athenian white ELEPHANT.—*Boston Globe*, March 4, 1883.

**ELEVATOR.**—A lift, either for passengers or goods. Lifts are much more largely used in America than in England. A characteristic example of this divergence of speech, as well as of the rage for everything English, which is just now a craze in the States, is given in the following from the *Chicago Tribune*:—" 'Beg pardon, mum, but you dropped your veil in the—the lift,' said the bell-boy to the departing guest, narrowly watching the effect of his words. 'James,' said the pleased New York lady to her husband, 'give the boy two shillings. He takes us for English people.'"

**ELM CITY.**—Newhaven, Connecticut. A sobriquet derived, as is obvious, from the magnificent trees of the same name which adorn it.

**EMPIRE CITY, EMPIRE STATE.**—The city and state of New York; so called by reason of their position



on the sea-board, their wealth, and population. New York City, together with Brooklyn and Jersey City, which, though separated from it by East River and the Hudson, are really suburbs of it (just as, in popular parlance, Westminster is now included in London), is the first city in the Union, possessing an admirable harbor, and a unique water way by the Hudson to the Lake system. The motto "Excelsior" upon its coat of arms, has also supplied another nickname in EXCELSIOR STATE. The term EMPIRE STATE OF THE SOUTH has been applied to Georgia.

**EMPT.**—A word, says Bartlett, coined by old ladies of New England for empty, as "go and *empt* out the water." It is an ungracious thing to deprive ladies, especially "old" ones, of the fruit of their mental labors, but there is hardly a house in some quarters of England where this old provincialism is not still current.

**EMPTYINGS.**—Pronounced and written in New England *emptins*. Yeast; the lees of beer, cider, etc.

A betch o' bread that hain't riz once ain't goin' to rise agin,  
An' it's jest money throwed away to put the  
EMPTINS in;  
But ther's wut folks wun't never larn; they  
dunno how to go,  
Arter you want their room, no more'n a  
bullet-headed beau.

—*Biglow Papers*.

**END.**—TO BE AT A LOOSE END.—To have nothing to do; to loaf about.

Jem Phillips is at what he calls A LOOSE END, and from his appearance one would imagine that his want of occupation is not troubling him very much.—*American Humorist*, September 15, 1888.

**ENDWAYS.**—FOR ENDWISE.

He stole as many apples as he wanted, and came down all right; and he was all

ready for the dog too, and knocked him ENDWAYS with a rock when he came to tear him.—*Mark Twain's Screamers*.

**ENGINEER.**—An engine-driver.

If I was an ENGINEER, I'd clap on steam,  
—I'd fire up, I tell you; you wouldn't get me  
to stop the engine, no way you could fix it.—  
*Pickings from the Picayune*.

I suppose I might have jumped, boys,  
In hope to save sinew and bone,  
And left those women and children  
To take their ride alone;  
But I thought of a day of reckoning,  
And whenever old John's done here  
The Lord won't say to him, then,  
You went back as an ENGINEER.

—*Denver Republican*, March 1, 1888.

As a verb it is often used instead of to plan, or to work out.

Scott, with a good deal of shrewdness, ENGINEERED the fight against Gorman, and when St. Louis was selected as the convention city, all the influences in the committee in favor of tariff reform united with Scott to set the convention at an early date.—*Missouri Republican*, Feb. 24, 1888.

Suddenly a notion entered into her head. Adela was only eighteen, it is true, and the general was forty-two, as she had heard him say. But he hadn't a wrinkle and looked some years younger. He was a most excellent man, even-tempered, and exceedingly rich. Why couldn't she ENGINEER a match between these two?—*New York Mercury*, July 21, 1888.

**ENGLISHMENT.**—Something Anglicized.

The torrent that rushes through Maniton just under Pike's Peak (Colorado), was called by him (the French explorer, St. Vrain) poetically enough *la Fontaine qui bouille*. The hard-headed Anglo-Saxons, reckoning this altogether too poetical abridged it to fountain, by which ENGLISHMENT it is commonly known.—*Scribner's Magazine*, Oct. 1887.

**ENSANGUINED UNDERGARMENT.**—A variant of the BLOODY SHIRT (*q.v.*).

The moment any honorable Senator on the Republican side, or any editor of any Northern paper, or any organ of the grand army talked about the Union armies, the grandeur of the achievements, the obligations of the nation, they were taunted with waving the ENSANGUINED UNDERGARMENT—

raking up the ashes of sectional strife, appealing to partisan hatred and malice.—*St. Louis Daily Globe Democrat*, March 7, 1888.

**ENSILAGE, To.**—With the introduction of silos and *ensilage*, the verb to *ensilage*, signifying the act of preparing the silos naturally takes its place.

**ENSMALL, To.**—To condense. A factitious word modelled on "enlarge."

Be sure you have nothing to say [in writing for the press], and then sit down and say it. Don't bother about ideas; or about sense, if you haven't any. Make up for the absence of both by grandiloquent words, and many of them, especially if you are writing for space. Enlarge upon your topic—it shows fertility; to ENSMALL upon it indicates paucity.—*F. W. Stauffer in The Epoch*, July 20, 1888.

**ENTHUSE, To.**—Filling or being filled with enthusiasm.

Kilrain came here to startle the people, but they failed to ENTHUSE. Sully came here and captured the people by storm. In no instance has he gone to any town without receiving a hearty welcome from the local sporting fraternity.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*, 1888.

**ENWEAVE, To.**—To intertwine or intermix by weaving; another form for *inweave*.

**E PLURIBUS UNUM.**—The origin of this motto is shrouded in some degree of mystery. Virgil uses *e pluribus unus*, and also Horace, *de pluribus una*, but the generally received view is that it was taken from the *Gentleman's Magazine*, that periodical having used it for more than one hundred years. It is claimed that its adoption on United States coins was suggested by Mr. W. Barton, of Philadelphia, in 1782. On the New York "doubloon," and one of the New York coppers of 1787, and one of the Washington cents of 1791, the

legend occurs as *unum e pluribus*; while on the "Immunis Columbia" of 1787, the New Jersey cent of 1786, and the Kentucky cent of 1791, it is *e pluribus unum*. It appeared for the first time on the national coinage in 1796.

**ERUPT, To.**—From "eruption." A new and utterly violent form.

This person had, at the peak and tip of a gigantic volcano of infuriated scolding against everything whatever, ERUPTED in a final blaze of fury.—*Putnam's Magazine*.

**ESCROD.**—A fisherman's term applied to any kind of small fish fit for boiling. Sometimes shortened into "scrod," and then applied to a small broiled cod.

**ESQUIPOMGOLE.**—See KINNICKINICK.

**ESSENCE-PEDDLER.**—The skunk. A peddler, which everyone fights shy of. This nickname is said to have been introduced by J. Russell Lowell.

**ESTUFA.**—A stove. Of Spanish origin, and part of the common speech of the Rocky Mountain States in which the Spanish element prevails.

**ETERNAL.**—An intensive of the same type as ALMIGHTY, CRUEL, AWFUL, etc. (*q.v.*), thus a week is spoken of as an eternal time.—**ETERNAL CAMPING GROUND.**—A simile for a future state of existence borrowed from the phraseology of backwoodsmen.

Uncle Larry enjoyed his jolly life so well that he wanted to keep on enjoying it. About June 1 he went into the Adirondacks with a party of congenial spirits. Unmindful of his seventy years he undertook to tramp like a youth of twenty. It was too much for him; he was found by a companion lying in the wood. After that he failed rapidly, and they say that he will soon go to the ETERNAL

CAMPING GROUND to join the many jolly campers who have gone before.—*The Examiner* (N.Y.), August, 1888.

**EUCHRE.**—Like many other card games or chess, *euchre* has lent its phraseology to everyday speech. *Euchred* in the terminology of the game means to lose two points; hence to *euchre* in the sense of to defeat; to foil; to overcome. The game itself is one which, though less difficult than whist, permits of much skilful play.

The Controller could scarcely believe his senses, but the fact finally dawned upon him that he had been *EUCHRED* by Hall, who had succeeded in getting control of the balance of the last 10,000 dollars appropriation despite the Controller's objection to having it transferred to this year's account.—*San Francisco Weekly Examiner*, March 22, 1888.

**EVACUATION DAY.**—The end of a mad king's folly—November 25, 1783, being the day when the British troops *evacuated* the city of New York. Once kept as a public holiday.

**EVENER.**—The swing splinter-bar of a carriage.

**EVENING.**—In the South and West, *evening* commences at noon, there being no afternoon as that term is understood in England. At sunset night commences.

**EVERGLADES.**—In the Southern States this term is applied to swampy grass-land. These, in Florida, are generally found near the coast and lie just above the sea level.

**EVERLASTING.**—One of those strangely perverted words which go to make up the American comic Bible-dictionary. Taken in conjunction with "eternal," "almighty," and the innumerable combinations in

which the name of the "Divine," "damnation," "hell-fire," and similar expressions are *everlastingly* worked up into the half-veiled blasphemies so painfully prevalent throughout the Union, and more especially in the New England communities of Puritan descent, it would appear that the Pilgrim Fathers secured ample freedom for their descendants to "whip the devil round the stump." These expletives are, in effect, the protest, grotesque and vulgar it may be, of the average human intellect in America, against the hard and fast theology of the men who, though standing out as giants amongst their fellows in the fight against tyranny, bigotry and wrong, yet too soon forgot to accord the same liberty of conscience to others which they claimed for themselves. In a theological sense they were far too ready to condemn those who ventured to question the all-round perfection and finality of the new standard which they set up. All honor to the men who, with the Divine breath of freedom on their lips, laid the foundations of a mighty Republic which, despite its acknowledged shortcomings, may even yet restore to the human mind, in days to come, some of the peace and contentment of the far-famed fabulous golden age of the past. Truly may it be said of them that they, in many respects, builded wiser than they knew. Yet, from the narrowness and bigotry of their character, a recoil was natural, and soon the gibes of the profane derived fresh significance from the exotic vocabulary of New England theology. The transition was rapid indeed, when helped out by the terse and vigorous vernacular of the Western pioneer and plainsman. Fond of high-sounding words, bold in metaphor, and with a country spread out before him,



the natural features of which are stupendous in their magnitude—mountains whose snow-capped peaks reach up to heaven, and where—

... The rivers that flow Run thousands of miles, spreading out as they go,  
Prairies like seas where the billows have rolled,  
As broad as the kingdoms and empires of old,  
And the lakes are like oceans, in storm or in rest—

it is little wonder that the language of the latter should reflect, in a measure, the influence born of new surroundings, and modify the speech of early youth. The admixture is, to say the least, always curious and sometimes grotesque, if not profane. Said Maj. Downing, in *May Day*, "New York is an *everlasting* great concern." And if anything goes wrong it goes to "almighty," or "*everlasting* smash," and so on *ad infinitum*.

An *EVERLASTING* good shot. Jo Brown, one of the Georgia senators, used to be the best shot with a squirrel rifle in the South. His father would give him twelve bullets and tell him to bring in twelve squirrels. 'And mind ye,' the old man would add, 'let the holes be through their 'tarnal heads.'

'Why,' said the peddler to the Widow Bedott, who had selected an article for her wedding dress, 'a body 'd think 'twas some *EVERLASTIN'* old maid, instead of a handsome young widdler that had chosen such a distressed thing for a weddin' dress.'—*Widow Bedott Papers*, p. 113.

**EVERYTHING IS LOVELY, AND THE GOOSE HANGS HIGH!**—A slang phrase, equivalent to what 'Arry would call "ter rights"; all is going swimmingly; all is serene.

**EVERY WHICH WAY.**—Everyway; in all directions. A common colloquialism.

He put on the pack saddle (a thing like a saw-buck), piled the property on it, and then

wound a rope all over and about it and under it, *EVERY WHICH WAY*, taking a hitch in it every now and then.—*Mark Twain's Roughing It*.

**EVIDENCE, To.**—To bear witness; to give *evidence*. A verb formed from *evidence* in the sense of testimony.

Flandroe said: 'I hadn' 'a thought ye'd 'a *EVIDENCED* agin me that-a-way.'

The man winced, and answered in a low voice, without looking up:

'I didn' want fur ter do ye no harm, Jim; but the comp'ny summonsed me, an' I was 'bleest fur ter come.'—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

**EXCELLENCY.**—This title is, in America, given, by courtesy, to Governors of States, and to representatives at foreign Courts.

**EXCELSIOR STATE.**—The State of New York, from the motto *Excelsior* upon its armorial bearings.

**EXCURSH, EXCURT, To.**—To visit; to go upon an excursion. Forms for which, Brother Jonathan! we do not thank thee.

**EXECUTIVE CITY.**—Washington; from its being the official capital of the Union, and the seat of Government.

**EXERCISED, To BE.**—To be perturbed in mind. A novel usage which, however, is not altogether unknown in England.

Chicago shippers are considerably *EXERCISED* over a new deal. The Iowa roads, with the exception of the Burlington, exact 20 cents a hundred on grain from the Missouri river to Chicago. The Eastern lines insist upon 27½ cents, Chicago to the seaboard, but these same roads have agreed upon a through rate on grain billed from the Missouri river to the seaboard of 36¼ cents, the Western lines accepting as their proportion 16¼ cents, and the Eastern lines 20 cents, a total cut of 1¼ cents.—*Missouri Republican*, February 24, 1888.

**EXERCISES.**—The proceedings at a public meeting; no doubt from the vigor displayed these are in many cases *exercises* indeed.

A few minutes later General Draper opened the *EXERCISES*. He said: Fellow Citizens,—This is the first time in my life that I have had the honor, etc., etc.

**EXPECT, TO.**—Equivalent to "to guess"; "to reckon"; "to calculate," etc.—See *CALCULATE*.

**EXPERIENCE.**—In a religious sense, what one has passed through in "getting religion." The visits of American revivalists to this country have made the term quite familiar to English ears.—To *EXPERIENCE* or *GET RELIGION* is to become converted.

'Do you mean to insinuate that ye've met with a change?' said the Widow Bedott to Jim Clarke, the peddler.

'I think I may confidently say I hev,' said Jim.

'How long since?'

'Wall, about a year and a half. I *EXPERIENCED RELIGION* over in Vermont, at a protracted meetin'. I tell ye, widow, them special efforts is great things; ever since I've come out, I've felt like another critter.'—*Widow Bedott Papers*, p. 108.

**EXPOSE.**—A corruption of "exposure," which has become colloquial.

The *EXPOSE* of the Coal Hill convict camp horror, with its attendant letters of criticism, have caused a great commotion from one end of Arkansas to the other.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, March 30, 1883.

**EXPOSITION.**—An exhibition; to put on *exposition*, to exhibit; Americans here follow the French usage.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson, who were married at the *EXPOSITION* building last year, have a ten-pound kid, William Palmer Nelson, which they propose to put on *EXPOSITION* this year. What's the matter with making him general manager when the present incumbent quits, as it is expected he will do after this year's show.—*St. Paul and Minneapolis Pioneer Press*, July 22, 1888.

**EXPRESS.**—An institution similar to the English Parcel Delivery Companies, only much more expeditious. The word *express* is never used in any other connection. The business has attained such enormous dimensions that the great *Express* companies have special cars running on all the great lines of railway. These are called *Express* cars or *Express* waggons; the *Express* office is where the business is transacted and *Express*-men are the employés.

Detroit detectives made a thorough search of O'Rourke's room yesterday morning, and found a lot of massive silver-plate which he had stored there. Later a lot of *EXPRESS* receipts, showing that he had shipped large quantities of goods stolen from the firm to his wife and mother-in-law.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, March 30, 1888.

An American paper recently gave the following account of the rise and progress of the system:—

William F. Harnden was the first *EXPRESS*-man, and he began his business in 1837—just fifty years ago. Before the time of Harnden, goods were always sent by freight. The transmission of valuable parcels—bank notes, gold and silver, etc.—in that way, was not to be thought of, and people who could not afford the time or the money to carry such precious things themselves used to depend upon the courtesy of some friend or chance acquaintance who was going that way. In those days, of course, there was far less of that sort of business required than now, but it had become a serious matter by 1837 to the business men of New York and Boston. At that time, James W. Hale kept the Tontine coffee house at the corner of Pearl and Wall streets, in New York. Connected with the coffee house was a news room—an institution long since rendered superfluous by the daily press—where New York merchants daily congregated and a famous stopping place for travellers to Boston and other New England points. Harnden's health had somewhat failed him, and he went to Hale for advice as to his future occupation. Hale told his applicant that every day some one dropped in at the news room anxiously inquiring for a traveller to Boston or Providence by whom a parcel could be sent. Harnden finally decided to make the venture, and, provided with a carpet bag, set out on his first trip. By Hale's advice, the novel enterprise was

called the EXPRESS, a new name at that time, and one which would give the idea of speed and fidelity. Orders for the EXPRESS were taken on a slate hung up in the news room and trips were at first made but three times a week. But it was some time before the venture proved a success. It seems strange now to think that business men of that time could not easily be made to understand that such a service as Harnden's should be paid for, but they had been accustomed for so long to the free carriage of their parcels by their friends and others that Harnden received small support at first, and, when eight weeks had rolled by, had sunk all his ready money. Some friends, who dimly saw the future of the enterprise, befriended him, however, procuring for him free passage on an opposition boat. This reduced his expenses; he continued, and soon began to make a little money. Then he hired an assistant, made six trips a week instead of three, and one night was overjoyed to find that his receipts for the day were 20 dols. When the Cunard line of steamers was established Mr. Harnden undertook the delivery of valuable parcels sent from America to Europe, and was soon on a sound financial basis. His friends advised him to go West with his EXPRESS, but he believed the western country was then too sparsely settled to support an EXPRESS. Perhaps he was right. At about this time he became imbued with the idea of controlling the immigration of the United States, and in 1841 the English and Continental EXPRESS was established, with offices in London, Liverpool, and Paris. Ships were chartered, and a small fleet of boats on the Erie canal to carry the immigrants westward was pressed into service, and in three years Harnden controlled a very large proportion of the immigration to America. But it did not pay, and in 1845 Harnden died of consumption, a poor man. Closely following Harnden came Alvin Adams, whose name will be perpetuated as long as there are EXPRESS companies, and Henry Wells. Wells saw money in the West, and the firm of Livingston, Wells & Co., was formed to prosecute the business in the new field. At that time the United States postal rates were high—twenty-five cents being charged for the carriage of a letter from Buffalo to New York. Wells demonstrated that letters could be carried between these points for six cents each at a profit, and opposition to the United States' mail was at once set up. This was against the law of the land, of course, and Livingston, Wells & Co.'s messengers, mounted on fleet horses, were often hotly pursued by Government riders; were frequently arrested, only to be bailed out at once by sympathetic friends, and were rarely punished. At last the postal rates were put down, and Livingston, Wells & Co. retired from the business of letter carrying, having lost money, but gained a reputa-

tion which insured them complete success afterwards in the legitimate EXPRESS business. They were the forerunners of the American EXPRESS company. The Central Overland California and Pike's Peak EXPRESS (the celebrated Pony EXPRESS) was projected in 1859. "Overland to California in thirteen days" was its promise, and the enterprise was watched with the keenest interest. Its messengers rode fleet-enduring ponies, and there were frequent relay stations, where fresh messengers on fresh horses were always in waiting to take the package on without the delay of a second. The dangers of this service were so great, that 1,200 dols. a month in gold was the salary paid messengers. Many men and horses were killed and many more were wounded by hostile Indians. The rate was five dollars a quarter ounce, which was little enough, for the concern lost money. The route was from St. Joseph, Mo., to San Francisco, and messengers were sent out from either side once a week. The *St. Joseph Gazette* was the first paper to send a copy of its publication across the plains along with the first messenger who started out April 3, 1860. In 1862 a telegraph line was built across the plains, and the Pony EXPRESS died a loser of 200,000 dols. The Overland Mail Company came in 1858, carrying monthly mails from St. Joseph to the Pacific, and at last the Pacific railroad.

—To EXPRESS.—To send by special messenger or conveyance. Whether this is derived from the expedition which characterizes the *express* service of America, or from the *express* trains of England, is uncertain.

EXTRA (American cadet).—An *extra* is a punishment imposed on Saturday and Sunday, when general leave is granted to all except those who are thus doomed to do *extra* sentinel duty.

EYE-OPENER. — Something which arouses one's surprise; a startler. It is also the name of a morning pick-me-up, which, imbibed often enough, would certainly prove a misnomer.

EYES SKINNED.—To KEEP ONE'S EYES SKINNED.—Part of the vigorous



Western speech; to be on the alert; to have one's wits about one. Thus the paternal advice is:—

My son, afore you leave yer home, I want ter say ter you,  
Thar's lots of pitfalls in the world ter let young roosters through;  
So keep a padlock on yer mouth and SKIN YER WEATHER EYE,  
But never advertise yerself as being monstrous fly.

—The huntsman, trapper, and pioneer had to depend largely for the success of their operations and for their very safety upon keenness of sight and untiring watchfulness, especially where the often almost imperceptible Indian SIGN (*q.v.*) had to be looked for. The phrase is sometimes varied, "Keep

your eyes peeled." The expression is generally colloquial.

KEEP YOUR EYES SKINNED and your rifles clean, and the minit yer git item that I'm back, set off for the cross roads, etc.—*New York Spirit of the Times*.

I don't know nothin' about takin' keer of stock in New York, but it's a mighty risky business out here. Have to KEEP YOUR EYE SKINNED, or some darned rascal will get away with all you've got.—*Texas Siftings*, August 18, 1888.

American love making and courting is a curious thing to the Corean legation. The minister cannot understand it, and he hardly knows how to take care of his eyes at one of these bare necked and bare backed receptions. He has asked some of the Americans here as to whether it was really right for him to look at the ladies, but at the last receptions I have noted that he makes no bones of KEEPING HIS EYES SKINNED, and that he admires many of the pretty girls exceedingly. — *American Humorist*, May 26, 1888.





**FACTORY COTTON.**—Unbleached cotton goods made at home in contrast to those which are imported.

**FACULATE, TO.**—A New England localism for to arrange; to put in order.

**FAIR MAID.**—A popular name on the Virginia coast for the *scup* (*q.v.*), a small fish which abounds also in New England waters. The flesh is much prized by most persons, as it is firm and flaky and usually sweet. When a year old they measure about six inches, and at three years old their length is ten inches and they weigh about half a pound.

**FAIR OFF, FAIR UP, TO.**—Phrases which, in the South-western States are used in connection with the weather. They denote gradual improvement.

**FAIR SHAKE.**—A fair bargain.

**FAITH - CURISTS.**—A new sect; they hold that all disease can be cured by faith and prayer alone—tenets which "the powers that be" look upon with a certain amount of suspicion.

There is also a doctor of mystic philosophy from Boston, who advertises a course of instruction on **FAITH CURE**, prayer cure, and the power of the mind and will over matter of the human or animal body.—*Pittsburg Dispatch*, July 29, 1888.

Great preparations are being made by the **FAITH-CURISTS**, at Mount Zion Sanctuary, on the borders of New York Bay, in Greenville, New Jersey, for their annual conference or camp meeting, which commences on August 10, and lasts one week. This annual session is looked forward to with considerable expectancy. At this time reports are made by delegates from all parts of the country of the work done during the year, and the wonderful cures that have been effected through faith and prayer.—*New York Herald*, July 29, 1888.

—See also **CHRISTIAN SCIENTIST**.

**FAKE.**—A swindle; something other than what it appears to be. This, with its corresponding term, **FAKER** (the agent), and *to fake* (the action), is expressive and comprehensive. *Faker* is a word of oriental origin, more commonly spelled with an "i" than an "e," and applied to an adept at sleight of hand. It came into use to characterize street-corner peddlers, who drew attention to their wares by performing tricks. A Chicago merchant once sued a Chicago newspaper for libel for asserting that he began his business career as a *faker*. Those who testified to the meaning of the word construed it as carrying the implication of swindling. Since then, a *faker*, in newspaper parlance, has come to mean a reporter who draws upon his imagination for his facts: and a *fake* is the spurious result of his labors. Others think, however, that the term wandered into the ranks of newspaper men direct from the stage, as, on the boards, when an actor failed to memorize his lines, and

supplied the deficiency by words of his own immediate creation, he was dubbed by his fellows a *fake*. *Fake*, in fact, has come to mean falsity or swindling of any kind.

Both ladies then came to the conclusion that the fortune-teller was a *FAKE*, and they decided to notify the police.—*New York Mercury*, 1888.

The men fought according to Queensberry rules, and as old Joe Goss said when he fought Mace the first time, 'Some of them 'ere reporters counted the misses.' Neither man used his right hand, and they made as many misses with their left hands as they could. It was a thorough *FAKE*.—*New York World*, February 14, 1888.

The telegraph man, who has edited Mulhatton's yarns before, and knows a *FAKE* from a barn-door, by the date line alone, carefully avoided this specimen, and deposited it tenderly in the waste-basket.—*Missouri Republican*, March 24, 1888.

**FALL.**—(1) The Autumn. A good old English word erroneously thought by some writers to be American by origin. It is not so; and yet, as the term has become unfamiliar to English ears, it may be counted such by usage. Literally meaning the *fall* of the leaf, the word accords with its antithesis Spring; and it seems a pity that it should have fallen into such disuse in England where, however, it is still sometimes heard in provincial districts. Bartlett and Webster say it was used by Dryden, but *fall* is older, for it is in Drayton, and Bishop Hall has *autumn fall*. Middleton plays upon the word, etc.—(2) A *fall* of rain or snow. "There will be a *fall* soon;" wet drizzly weather in the States is universally spoken of as *falling* weather, probably in allusion to a *falling* barometer.—(3) A crane or derrick is so called—hence *fall*-way, the line in which the *fall* or derrick works.—To *FALL*.—A corruption of "to fell" [a tree]. Heard on both sides of the Atlantic; but most frequently in America.

**FALLS CITY.**—Louisville in Kentucky, from the falls of the same name on the Ohio river. Americans seem to be very sensitive concerning the names of their cities; rather inconsistently so, seeing that, in many cases the names have been far from happily chosen. (*See CITY, et passim.*) Louisville, however, seems destined to forfeit the exclusive use of its sobriquet, for the people of Little Falls, one of the suburbs of St. Paul's, Minneapolis, are disgusted with the word "Little" in the name of their town since the great 15,000-horse power dam was built, and they are going to change the name to *Falls City*. A good many Louisville, Kentucky, people have gone there to live, and this may account for the proposed new name.

**FAN.**—To *FAN OUT*.—To pass an examination with credit. Said to have originated among the cadets of the United States Military Academy, at West Point. Probably from *fan* in the sense of winnow.

**FANCIES.**—Gambling stocks. The less is known about these "securities" the more they seem to be *fancied* by the sharks of the Stock Exchange, as they are able to fleece greenhorns who dabble in them five times as much as would be possible with good stocks.

**FANDANGO.**—In the old Spanish States a ball or dance of any kind; but, in the East, it rather denotes a jollification in which the dancing, though quiet at first, generally becomes very pronounced in character, the presiding genius being not Terpsichore but Bacchus.



Here's how it wuz: I started out to go to a  
FANDANGO,  
 The sentinel he ups an' sez, 'Thet's furdur  
 'an you can go.'

'None o' your sarse,' sez I; sez he, 'Stan'  
 back!' 'Ain't you a buster?'

—*Biglow Papers.*

**FARALLON.**—A Spanish-American term  
 for an isolated island or promontory. The term is applied to  
 islands off the coast of California.

**FARINA.**—A superior quality of  
 wheaten flour.

**FAR WEST.**—In the past, the immense  
 sweep of country to the west of  
 the Mississippi river was thus  
 known. This region is still called  
 the West, but the iron horse has  
 robbed it of its special appellation.  
 It was also called the Wild West,  
 but this, too, is now much of a  
 misnomer.

**FAST RUNNER** (*Tachydromus sexlineatus*).  
 —A species of lizard of great  
 beauty; its name describes its  
 swiftness of motion.

**FAT.** — **FAT PINE KNOTS.** — A term  
 applied to wood very rich in resinous  
 matter. Dodge, in his *Plains of the  
 Great West*, p. 393, speaks of a  
 poor drummer boy who had been  
 taken in capture by the Apaches,  
 and who, after torturing him in  
 other ways, "procured some *fat*  
*pine knots*, and, splitting them into  
 small splinters, stuck them into the  
 skin until the unfortunate boy  
 bristled like a porcupine. They  
 then set fire to the splinters, and  
 danced and yelled with delight  
 when the poor boy cried and  
 screamed with anguish."

**FAT PORK TREE.** — A Bimshire term  
 for the COCO PLUM.

**FAVORED.** — Well-favored, and ill-favored, as relating to the countenance, are legitimate English terms (by-the-by, Bartlett erroneously says they are obsolete), but such combinations as long-favored, square-favored, round-favored, etc., to describe the type of face, are unknown in England, though apparently current in America—apparently, because though both Bartlett and Proctor mention this usage, neither give examples, nor have I been able to find any.

**FAVORITE SON.**—This phrase became so common, used in reference to local or State politicians, that the *Nation* at last made it the text for an editorial article so severely satirical that *favorite sons* have not been so numerous since its publication.

**FAY, TO.**—To fit. "Your coat *fays* well." This obsolete form, a curtailment of fadge, and in use during the Augustan Age of English Literature, is still current in New England.

**FEARFUL.**—Used by Pennsylvanians in the same fearfully *fearful* manner as are AWFUL, EVERLASTING, etc. (*q.v.*). Much; great; strongly—in fact, all that is superlative.

**FEAST.**—Fastidious. "I'm *feast* of it." From the Dutch *vies*. An old Americanism now obsolete.

**FEATHER, TO.**—Cream *feathers* when it rises like flakes in tea. A New Englandism.

**FEATURED, TO BE.**—To be displayed; to be set out to the best advantage, literally to be made a feature.

I was to a 'fashionable wedding' the other afternoon. The papers said it was fashionable and that is why I quote the words. The

biggest thing I saw at the wedding was a lot of glassware and block tin knives and forks, which were **FEATURED** in one of the rooms. There was much blowing about them under the disappointing name of bridal presents, and if I am not mistaken one newspaper remarked in a half-ashamed, half-apologetic way that they were elegant and costly.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, April 29, 1888.

**FEAZE, FEEZE and PHEEZE, To.**—To vex; **TO BE IN A FEAZE** is to be in a state of excitement; used both as a noun and a verb. A good old English word which is still commonly colloquial in the States, especially Virginia and the South. Bartlett erroneously derives it from the French *fâcher*, to vex; others on the contrary believe it to have no connection whatever with *fâcher*, and say it was used formerly in the same sense as "tease," as in teasing wool, but more particularly applied to curry-combing. "I'll *pheese* you in faith," says Christophero Sly, meaning that he will vex the worthy hostess by staying like teasel in wool. Yet another authority regards it as derived from the Anglo-Saxon *fysan*, used to denote the rapid and noisy movement of water, and from which we get the modern "fizz."

**FEDERALIST, FEDERALs.**—The *Federalists* grew out of a wing of the Colonial Whig party, which advocated a concentration of power in a general government. Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay, were among its leaders, and jointly wrote a once famous series of essays, which were published in the *Federalist* under the common *nom de plume* of "Publius." Washington was the acknowledged head of the party, and its power was not broken until the Presidential election of 1800, when Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr were elected by the then Republicans, defeating the

*Federalist* candidates, John Adams and C. C. Pinckney. By 1820 the party may be said to have been practically out of the political race, though its traditions were proudly cherished for many years afterwards. Its membership mostly fell back upon the name of **WHIG** (*q.v.*) for a party designation. During the Civil War the Union troops were sometimes called *Federalists*. — **FEDERAL CITY.**—Washington, the seat of Government, is so called.—**FEDERAL CURRENCY.**—The legal currency in the United States. This comprises, in gold, the eagle (ten dollars), double eagle (twenty dollars), half-eagle (five dollars), and quarter-eagle (two dollars, fifty cents). There is also a gold dollar, but this is rarely met with except when especially asked for at banks. The silver coins are the dollar (one hundred cents), half-dollar (fifty cents), quarter-dollar or the quarter (twenty-five cents), the dime (ten cents), and the half-dime (five cents). There is also a nickel cent. Pennies are again coming into use; these are of the value of two cents.—**TO FEDERALIZE.**—To unite for political purposes.

**FEED.**—Used for grass without any necessarily special reference to it, as obtains in this country, as food for sheep, cattle, etc.—in the sense of pasture. An American wishing to describe grass as long would call it tall *feed*.

**FEEL, To.**—A verb which is used colloquially in the sense of to feel disposed—"he doesn't *feel to walk*," *i.e.*, inclined to walk, or familiarly, he doesn't feel like walking. —**TO FEEL MEAN.**—When a Westerner, or indeed (so common is the phrase everywhere), any Ameri-

can citizen says he would *feel mean* if restrained or prevented from following any line of action, he simply means that his *amour propre* would be more or less wounded, and scarcely a shade of the legitimate signification of "mean" is present in his mind when employing the phrase. As a matter of fact, to *feel mean* is used as frequently and with the same license and meaning as is "sat upon" in England.—To **FEEL PALE**.—To experience fright, or sudden shock. Familiarly colloquial.

**FEELAY**.—The leaves of the sassafras prepared by being dried and powdered. A Louisianian term.

**FEAZE, TO**.—TO BE IN A FEEZE.—*See* FEAZE.

**FELLOWSHIP**.—This word, used substantively and as a verb, is regarded by many lexicographers as a part of the stock-in-trade of religious cant, using that word in its broader and inoffensive meaning. Religious newspapers have, however, so popularized the phrase that it is no longer confined to matters theological.—To **FELLOWSHIP**, signifies to hold communion with those sharing identical views as to religious or other doctrine and discipline. Used *passively*, a man would be said to refuse to *fellowship* with others; *actively*, to *fellowship* them. Also **DIS-FELLOWSHIP**.

The early comers of this Sunday morning procession are, in the main, Methodists going to eat bread and water with the brethren in the 9 o'clock love-feast assembly, to sing together the touching songs of **FELLOWSHIP**, and to tell, and to hear told, the stories of personal trials and sorrows,—to taste the pleasure of being one of a great company wrought to ecstasy by a common religious passion.—*Century Magazine*, 1887.

**FEM, A**.—The name given by cadets of the United States Military

Academy to women generally, whether young or old, just as "petticoat" is similarly used in England. Evidently a contraction of feminine.

**FEMALE HELP**.—A class name for all kinds of domestic servants and feminine assistants in America. It is an amiable weakness of Uncle Sam's women-kind to walk all round the slightest suspicion of the word service; consequently, there are no servants in America, only *helps*, whereat one is constrained to inquire whether after all there is not something in a name.

**FENCE**.—TO BE ON THE FENCE in politics is to be neutral as regards the opposing parties—men who prefer as Lowell puts it—

A kind o' hangin' round an' settin' ON THE FENCE,  
Till Providence pinte how to jump an' save the most expense.  
—*Biglow Papers II*, p. 97.

The simile is obviously drawn from the phraseology peculiar to settlers in a new and uncleared country.

While Democratic papers will claim that Judge Thurman is as hearty and well at seventy-five as he was at fifty-five, journals ON THE other side of the FENCE will represent him to be a weak, feeble old man, much better fitted for the invalid than the vice-presidential chair.—*Texas Siftings*, July 7, 1888.

Politicians who are ON THE FENCE keep themselves well posted.

When every fool knows that a man represents,  
Not the fellers that sent him, but them ON THE FENCE,—  
Impartially ready to jump either side  
An' make the fust use of a turn o' the tide.  
—*Biglow Papers*.

The possessors of highly developed bumps of caution are called **FENCE MEN**; they run with the hare and hunt with the hounds, an operation which receives the



equally descriptive name of FENCE-RIDING, and which sometimes qualifies them for RAIL-RIDING (*q.v.*).

—SNAKE-FENCE.—A serpentine wood-rail fence, which is also called a VIRGINIA FENCE; another name for it is a WORM-FENCE.—THERE'S A NIGGER IN THE FENCE.—This colloquialism, an allusion to the thieving propensities of the negro, furnishes a slang phrase for crooked dealing of all kinds. It means that things are not square and above-board. Cuffee is very fond of poultry, and, in his efforts to gratify his tastes, he stealthily breaks through fences and other barriers without compunction—hence the origin of the phrase in question.

**FERRY-FLAT.** — A FLAT-BOAT (*q.v.*), mainly used for ferrying purposes.

**FETCH, TO.**—The idiomatic usages of this verb are by no means few in number or wanting in quaint oddness. To FETCH UP, *i.e.*, to stop suddenly, a phrase of nautical origin, is of course common in England; perhaps more so than in America, where "brought up"—"he brought up"—is more current.

"I like sleigh-ridin', said Mrs. Aleshine, 'if you're well wropped up, with good horses, an' a hot brick for your feet, but I must say I don't know but what I'm goin' to be a little skeery goin' down these long hills. If we git fairly slidin' hoses, sleigh, an' all together, there's no knowin' where we'll FETCH UP.'—*Century Magazine*.

—To *fetch* in the sense of "to perform" is common in the South. "I *fetch*ed a howl that you might have heard two miles," and blows are *fetch*ed with quick and unerring aim.—To *fetch* has also the sense of "to bring up," or "to educate"; thus, children are *fetch*ed up or RAISED (*q.v.*), with which it is synonymous.—Still another meaning is conveyed when

some potent argument is said to have influenced strongly, or *fetch*ed a man, "that *fetch*ed him" or that convinced him. This meaning is largely colloquial in America, and Mr. Proctor relates how, even in educated society, it is frequently heard. A college professor once told that gentleman how unwilling he was to write a certain treatise till informed that failing him another person, known by the professor to be incompetent, would be invited to write the volume. "That *fetch*ed me" was the emphatic criticism; meaning that that was an argument he could not resist. This meaning of *fetch* is also widened out to signify "attractive," as a *fetch*ing bonnet or even a *fetch*ing woman.—To FETCH AWAY is to part, as "a fool and his money are soon *fetch*ed away," *i.e.*, separated.—And not the least curious is that sense in which to FETCH means to agree with.

Men, take a good look at him! You'll all FETCH with me that if any man in these yere hills ever considers to chitter him [stops to question his right] that ere man has got to diet!—*Detroit Free Press*, September 15, 1888.

**FETTERLOCK-DEEP**, for fetlock-deep, is a variation peculiar to New England.

**FETTICUS, VETIKOST, Or FATTIKOWS.**—All New York terms for corn-salad.

**FEVER BUSH** (*Laurus benzoin*).—The spice-bush, or wild allspice. Its bark is valued as a febrifuge. Mass.

**FEVER'N'AGER.** — A corruption of "fever and ague."—See AGER.

THE FEVER'N'AGER got fastened to me, and stuck jest like a Comanche on a mustang: the worse it jumps, the tighter he sticks, as if he was glued to the saddle, or like he was one of them rale half-horse and half-alligator fellows.—*New York Spirit of the Times*.

**F. F. Vs.**—Satirical abbreviation of "First Families of Virginia," and applied generally to what was known as the Southern aristocracy. The abbreviation was of Northern origin.

**FICE, FYSE.**—An obsolete English word still used in Kentucky and the South for a small dog or cur. Sometimes spelt *phyce*. This word is perhaps one of the most interesting cases of survival now presented by American philology. It is evidently the last small remnant of the old English "foisting cur," quoted as "foisting hound" in Wright's *Provincial Dialects*. Nares gives nearly the whole process of gradual corruption: "foisting—foisty—foist—fyst—fyce," and Grose has it "fyst." Halliwell describes the foisting dog as a kind of lap-dog, so-called from its bad habits, which often have to serve as an excuse for the sins of the owner. A fisting hound, also, is mentioned as a kind of spaniel, in Harrison's *England*, p. 230.

De debbil's in that 'ar FICE, Jefferson would say a dozen times a day, and shake his gray head doubtfully.—*Putnam's Magazine*.

**FID.**—A small portion of tobacco; a plug or a quid.

**FIDDLE.**—TO HANG UP ONE'S FIDDLE.  
—To retire; to give up or abandon an undertaking; or simply to break the continuity [of action].

**FIDDLER.**—A small lively one-clawed crab.

The drainage-ditches were everywhere alive with little crabs—FIDDLERS. One saw them scampering sidewise in every direction whenever they heard a disturbing noise. Expensive pests, these crabs; for they bore into the levees and ruin them.—*Mark Twain's Life on the Mississippi*, p. 429.

**FIDE ON THE JECK** (Texas).—Confident on the subject. A mere corruption of words.

**FIELD-DRIVER.**—An office which, in New England, is equivalent to that of pound-keeper in the Mother Country; the duties of both are identical.

**FIELD-MARTIN** (*Tyrannus carolinensis*).—This is the Southern name for a bird which, in other localities, is also known as the SCISSOR-TAIL, the KING BIRD, and among the aborigines as the SACHEM. This brave and plucky bird of passage is one of the best known of the feathered tribes of America.

**FIENDISHMENT.**—Fortunately, this barbarous derivative is rarely met with. A fiendish act or spirit.

**FIFTY-FOUR-FORTY OR FIGHT.**—An alliterative rallying cry, which had a great run in 1824, when the location of the North-western boundary was in dispute with Great Britain. On the strength of a former treaty with Russia, it was held that our North-western territory should extend to the parallel of 54° 40', but a compromise was effected in 1846, by the extension of the 49th parallel to Paget Sound.—*Political Americanisms*.

**FIGURE, TO.**—Like "to fetch" this comes in for a good deal of hard work.—(1)—To count upon, as "you may figure upon getting a reply by return mail."—(2) **FIGURE ON THAT.**—A common colloquialism for think it over.—(3) To single out, or in English billiard slang, to spot.

The next evening we came to a drove of small pigs and began to **FIGURE** for one. Finally I stood behind a tree with a club;

when the pig followed up I shot him with my stick.—*Burlington Free Press*.

—To CUT A FIGURE.—To display; to do well.

The black walnut-tree will CUT A FIGURE on our farms in the future. It can be made as profitable as the apple-tree in localities where it will thrive at all.—*Detroit Free Press*, March 30, 1888.

—To GO THE WHOLE FIGURE, is synonymous with thoroughness; completeness; entirely; altogether.

Women, I believe, are born with certain natural tastes. Sally was death on lace, and old Aunt Thankful GOES THE WHOLE FIGURE for furs.—*Sam Slick's Human Nature*, p. 225.

—To GO THE BIG FIGURE.—To launch out.

Don't know what a foo-foo is? Well, as you're a greenhorn, I'll enlighten you. A foo-foo, or an outsider, is a chap that can't come THE BIG FIGURE.—*A Glance at New York*.

—To MISS A FIGURE.—To make a vital mistake; to so act that unchangeable results accrue therefrom.

**FIGURE FOUR.**—A hunter's trap for large game. Also called a DEAD-FALL.

**FILE.**—What is known to English servants as a house-flannel, and a house-maid's pail, goes by the name of FILE-PAIL, or FILING-PAIL.

**FILIBUSTER, To.**—To obstruct legislative action by delivering long purposeless speeches, calling for divisions, and the like, in order to gain time. The original is the Spanish word *filiboti*, a pirate, and the parliamentary meaning implies a disposition to override regular rules. *Filibustering* is usually practised by the minority in order to tire out the majority.

Mr. Bland did not oppose these measures to-day in a FILIBUSTERING spirit, but was

actuated only by a sense of public duty.—*Missouri Republican*, Feb. 22, 1888.

Apart from political usage, the word is equivalent to the English freebooter or lawless adventurer, although according to General Henningsen, such characters form the advance guard of civilization. Writing to a brother legislator, he says, "What was Moses but a *filibuster*, whose mission was to dispossess tribes retrograding (or whose civilization was corrupting before matured), and to plant in their stead another people, whose subsequent annals show them to have been, at least, in nowise superior to our own? What were the Normans from whom the sovereigns of Great Britain affected to derive their descent, and a portion of their title to the crown, but *filibusters*? What the Pilgrim Fathers but *filibusters*? What State, what territory in this Union, has not been *filibustered* from the Indians, or purchased from those who had *filibustered* it? Have ever five years elapsed down to the present time, since the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers, that some of the monarchies of Europe have not, somewhere, been *filibustering* something?"—A variant for *filibustering* is FILIBUSTERISM, which Proctor calls an "elegant derivative," presumably "writ sarcastic," as Artemus Ward would have said.

**FILL.** — To FILL THE BIN. — To acknowledge the accuracy of a description. A slang expression evidently derived from the stable. Thus: An inquiry as to whether such and such a piece of news is reliable, the answer might be, "Yes, it *fills the bin*"; i.e., it is to be depended upon. Compare with TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE CORN.



**FILLING** (In Poker).—To match, or strengthen the cards to which you draw.—*The American Hoyle*.

**FILLIPEEN PHILLIPINA**.—The name of a pleasing custom. Both are of German derivation; and, in all likelihood, have been made familiar to English people through the German element in the States.—From *Vielliebchen*.

**FIND**.—Equivalent to "discovery." A slang expression about as common in England as in America, but transatlantic in origin.

To sum up the day's developments is simply to deny the senseless fakes and the sensational FINDS of Tascott [a fugitive murderer] all over the country.—*Chicago Herald*, 1888.

**FINDING STORE**.—Otherwise a "grindery"; a store where shoemaker's tools and fittings are sold.

**FINE AND CLOSE**.—To GET ONE DOWN FINE AND CLOSE.—To find out all about a man; to deliver a stinging blow, etc.

**FINE AS SILK**.—A simile of comparison. As sunlight is to moonlight, and as water is to wine, so is *silk* to cotton—the metaphor is popularly colloquial.

**FINEFIED**.—Bastard American English for "made fine"; dandified.

**FINGER**.—A "nip"; a small quantity; usually applied to spiritous liquors. Thus, in drinking saloon slang, "three *fingers* of clear juice" would be equivalent to our English three "goes" of whiskey.

'Which is correct, spoonfuls or spoons-ful, uncle?' Denver uncle.—'Um—er—the fact is I don't know, my boy. In Denver, we don't use either, we say FINGERS.'—*Newport Journal*, February 25, 1888.

**FINIKIN**.—De Vere erroneously quotes this, with "finniking" and "finnicky," all of them mere corruptions of finical, as Americanisms; as a matter of fact, they are, probably, more common in England than across the water.

**FIP**.—Short for fippence, or fippenny bit. A local name for the old Spanish half-real, of the value of six-and-a-half cents.

**FIRE-BUG**.—An incendiary.

Henry Vollmer, the last of the trio of FIRE-BUGS, arrested last fall for igniting the many fires in the lumber yard district in North St. Louis, was yesterday removed to the Insane asylum, there being no doubt of his insanity.—*Missouri Republican*, February 22, 1888.

**FIRE-COPPER**.—A group of brands of whiskey are known in America under this strange title, given, it is said, "because of their uniformity and cleanliness." Another large group is the "sour mash" family. Concerning the origin of these terms there is nothing to be said.

**FIRE-EATER**.—A bitter Southern partisan. It came into use during the early anti-slavery days, and is of frequent occurrence in the journals of that time. It is equivalent to BOURBON (*q.v.*), but probably of earlier origin.—*Political Americanisms*.

**FIRE-HUNT**.—A night hunt for game, in which torches of various kinds play a prominent part.

FIRE HUNTING at night is the best plan, and the one most followed when hides are the object. The fire in the bow of the canoe lights up the shores and blinds the eyes of the 'gators so that we can paddle close to them and put a ball into one eye without trouble. The big beast always throws himself ashore and slashes about among the reeds with his tail, after an eye shot, dying in about five minutes. We never stop to pick them up, but keep on

down the bayou until we have killed half a dozen or more, and the next day we hunt them up, strip off the skins, cut out the jaw bones and sometimes a part of the tail, which is as good eating as pork. After being buried a week or so the teeth drop out of the jaws, and are ready for market.—*The Rambler* (Chicago), 1883.

**FIREMAN.**—A stoker on American railways.

**FIREWATER.**—The name by which Indians know whiskey, brandy, and other spirits.

**FIREWORKS.**—Matches. New England. Rarely heard nowadays, and probably at no time anything more than a perversion of language.

**FIRE ZOUAVES.**—The New York firemen, at the time of the Civil War, formed themselves into companies of zouaves, hence the distinctive title as applied to them.

**FIRSTLY.**—Hasty. The transition from the legitimate meaning of the word to this colloquial usage is easy and apparent.

'I took down the gun and peppered Bill Bibbs. Then one of his brothers peppered my son Enos, and so we've been pepperin' ever since.'

'And all about an old mule!'

'Well, mews was skace then, and it was the principle o' the thing, ye see. Mebbe we've been too **FIRSTLY** (hasty), but the Bibbs hain't never cum to talk it over.'—*Detroit Free Press*, September 29, 1888.

**FIRST-RATE AND A HALF.**—An intensified form of *first-rate*, and an undoubted Americanism. Both Bartlett and De Vere, however, quote first-chop (Anglo-Chinese jargon) first-class and *first-rate* as Americanisms. They might as well have included all idiomatic English. There is no doubt that the signification of these expressions, as now used colloquially, has been considerably enlarged; usage, how-

ever, has confirmed such extension of meaning, and at no time could they have been rightly included in a dictionary of Americanisms, even in the widest acceptance of the term. A variant for *first-rate* is **FIRST-SWATHE**, of Western origin.

**FISH.**—To MAKE FISH.—To prepare fish for market. A New England expression.

**FISH CROW.**—(*Corvus ossifragus*).—The name of this bird is self-explanatory. A denizen of the Southern States, and confined to the maritime districts.

The FISH-CROWS alight on large mud flats, bordering the salt-water marshes, for the purpose of catching the small crabs called fiddlers.—*Audubon, Ornith. Biog.*, vol. ii., p. 269.

**FISHERMAN-FARMER.**—A Massachusetts term for one who combines farming with fishing at different periods of the year.

**FISH-FLAKE.**—A kind of faggot-hurdle used for drying fish. New England.

**FISHING FROG.**—The American Angler; one of the spurious DEVIL-FISH (*q.v.*).

**FISH-SKIN.**—Used in New England, says J. R. Russell, in his Glossary to the *Biglow Papers*, to clarify coffee. The effect on the coffee is the same as that produced by isinglass. But the practice is by no means confined to New England. In country districts in England, dried *fish-skin*, newly broken egg-shells, etc., are still used for this purpose.

**FISH STORY.**—A marvellous narration; the equivalent of what in English

newspaper slang would be called a "big gooseberry" or a "sea-serpent yarn." Narratives containing the wonderful exploits and characteristics of animals, etc., were at one time so frequently met with in American literature, that they became synonymous with an incredible relation. Fashion changed from time to time as regards the creature thus dealt with—at one time it was SNAKE STORIES (*q.v.*), at another MULE STORIES, and so on—but one and all are of the same type. *Fish stories* are to be met with as early as 1767.

**FISTE.**—A small dog or cur.—*See* FICE.

**FISTICATE, TO.**—To quarrel; to meddle; to fight. Compare with "fisticuff." *Fisticate* was at one time the subject of considerable discussion.

**FITS.**—"The man ran after the thievish Indian, and the corporal cried out to him to give him *fits* if he caught him," *i.e.*, "to make it hot or uncomfortable. If it should be desired to produce a state of discomfort more akin to hell than purgatory, the phrase would run to give him PARTICULAR FITS. — Another variant is TO GIVE ONE JESSE or PARTICULAR JESSE.

**FIVE CORNERED STUMP.**—TO TALK ROUND A FIVE CORNERED STUMP is a simile for loquacious talk, more or less of an exaggerated character. "To talk the hind leg off a cow" is a somewhat similar expression.

Chief Sargent, of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, was interviewed by a reporter for the *Inter-Ocean* last night. Mr Sargent can talk around a FIVE CORNERED

STUMP when he wishes, and considerable winnowing was necessary to separate the grains of wheat from Mr. Sargent's chaff.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, March 8, 1888.

**FIVE POINTERS.**—The name given at one time to a band of New York rowdies.

**FIVE-SHOOTER.**—A five-barrelled revolver. A Western term; the plainsman, quick and unerring in aim, scorns in naming his weapon to admit the remotest possibility of any shot failing to take deadly effect. Five barrels—five corpses. So also *six-shooter*.

**FIX.**—The hardest worked word in the "American language," and which, De Vere says, may be safely called the American word of words, since there is probably no action whatever, performed by mind or body, which is not represented at some time or other by this catholic word. It has well been called the strongest evidence of that national indolence which avoids the trouble of careful thought at all hazards, and of that restless hurry which ever makes the word welcome that comes up first and saves time. Whatever is to be made, whatever needs repair, whatever requires arrangement—all is *fixed* except the exact meaning of this verb universal. The farmer *fixes* his gates, the mechanic his work-bench, the seamstress her sewing-machine, the fine lady her hair, and the schoolboy his books. The minister has to *fix* his sermon in time, the doctor to *fix* his medicines, and the lawyer to *fix* his brief. At public meetings it is *fixed* who are to be the candidates for office; rules are *fixed* to govern an institution, and when the arrangements are made the people contentedly say, "Now



everything is *fixed* nicely." This use of the word is thought by Proctor to have arisen from some confusion between "fingency" and "fixation"—as if the word had the meaning of the Latin *fingo*, *fingere*, instead of that only of the Latin *figo*, *figere*. At least there is no use of the word *fix* in America which would not fairly represent the meaning of one or other of the two verbs *fingo* and *figo*.

I do hope you'll like everything; it's the first time we ever took boarders, but we try to fix things nice.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1888.

—Men who are ready for any emergency are *fixed*.

My grandfather knew him well, and he says Franklin was always *FIXED*—always ready.—*Mark Twain's Screemers*.

Those who, according to English slang have been "squared," are similarly designated.

His friends on the grand jury, of whom he had several, acted precisely as *FIXED* jurors had been known to act. They bulldozed witnesses and insulted them. They allowed themselves to become heated, excited and partisan, and labored to introduce everything save the truth.—*San Francisco News Letter*.

Very much akin is the *fixing* of "primaries" in political contests; while in commercial circles, to *fix* a thing for the market comes perilously near flagrant and dishonest dealing. A representative of the *New York Herald*, speaking of oleo-margarine, which by courtesy alone can be called butter, thus describes some of the tricks of the trade, or, as it is termed, *fixing* the tubs. On coming into the middleman's possession—

All the marks on the tubs are carefully scraped off and the butter weighed. Say the first tub weighs sixty-five pounds net—that is, with due allowance made for the weight of the tub, etc.

The top is then knocked off and the butter

tried to see what sort of a brand it will stand. Then as much salt or brine as the tub will possibly hold is packed on top of the butter. This is the first step.

A new top is then nailed on, this cover, by the way, having been soaked, and being therefore much heavier than the first one, and the tub is now ready for marking or branding.

By such means are profits increased; though, to do Brother Jonathan justice, it must be remarked that human nature is human nature all the world over.—Passing from these general significations, we get *fix* particularised in the slang phrase, ANYHOW YOU CAN FIX IT, or conversely, NOHOW YOU CAN FIX IT, the precise meaning of which is obvious in the following example:

A man may be the straight thing, that is, right up and down like a cow's tail; but hang me if he can do the clean thing. ANYHOW YOU CAN FIX IT.—*S. Slick's Human Nature*, p. 53.

—To BE IN A FIX is to be in a difficulty; to be non-plussed. This is slang in England, but probably derived from the universally colloquial American usage. — In FIXINGS is seen another variation, the word itself being usually pronounced *fixin's*. These range from the equipment of a body of soldiers or a railroad, down to the most ordinary etceteras which garnish or accompany dressed food, as in CHICKEN FIXIN'S (*q.v.*). — To FIX ONE'S FLINT is a phrase taken from backwoods' life, and is equivalent to the English slang "to dish" or "to do for"; while TO FIX OUT is, when used of the person, to adorn; or a table is *fixed out* when arranged for a meal. The thing itself when so displayed is a *fix out*, the expression being varied both substantively and verbally by FIX UP.

—A *fixed* fact is a certainty, or, as it is sometimes put, a BOTTOM FACT.—From all this, and but a tithe of the multifarious usages has been instanced, it will be

seen that the weakness of Americans for this word is not easily gauged. Its universality is only equalled by its antiquity, for, as J. R. Lowell points out, as early as 1675, the Commissioners of the United Colonies ordered "their arms well *fixed* and fit for service."

**FIZZLE.**—A failure. "I'm afraid my reception will be a *fizzle*"—hence TO FIZZLE OUT, to prove a failure. —Both these expressions have long been in use in England, but are used colloquially in America far more frequently than here.

Way down in Hoosic valley  
Minds put forth their shoots,  
And many weary hours were passed  
In grubbing lingual roots.  
There I FIZZLED and there I flunked,  
So mournful all the day;  
Till the welcome pony came at last,  
And bore my toil away.  
(*Carmina, Collegensia, Songs of Williams.*)

**FLAG, To.**—To signal trains by means of flags.

The trains were to be FLAGGED from the tank instead of the bridge, and at night the white light, indicating All right! was left permanently at the post, seventy rods from the nearest watchman!—*New York Evening Post*, 1888.

**FLAKE.**—A frame for drying. — See FISH FLAKE. The word is a survival of English provincial usage.

**FLAMBUSTIOUS.**—Showy; gaudy; or applied to enjoyment, good; as "we will have a *flambustious* time." If, as is asserted, this word is derived from "flam," a lie or cheat, a certain transition of meaning has occurred.

**FLAMDODDLE.**—Nonsense; vain-boasting. Probably only a variation of FLAP-DOODLE (*q.v.*).

And that's the way we took that job out of the hands of a regular-built divine, and

planted Uncle George in ship-shape and proper manner. We wasn't goin' to have any highfalutin' FLAMDODDLE business over him. He wouldn't have laid quiet in his grave.—*New York Sun*, 1888.

**FLANK.** — TO FLANK THE WHOLE BOTTLE.—A slang expression signifying superlative cunning and brilliant success. This term is borrowed from the phraseology of military strategy, in which to *flank* has a comparatively honorable meaning; that is to say, if matters pertaining to legalized murder can in any wise be so described. "Like master, like man," however, and the term has descended much lower in the scale of soldier morality, ultimately coming, generally, to signify cunning; dishonesty; and avoidance of duty by trick or other mean artifice.

**FLAP-DOODLE.**—"To talk *flap-doodle*" is to talk boastingly; to utter nonsense. Varied by FLAM-DOODLE.

Possibly rich men will turn from sharp dealing, from debauchery, from FLAP-DOODLE fashion to a common-sense recognition of a situation, which shows clearly that wealth is no longer what it used to be—autocratic, absolute, the ruler of all else.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, March 2, 1888.

**FLAP-JACK.**—A griddle-cooked pancake, sometimes called SLAP-JACK. The word is old English.

Reaching the camp, Bill instructs Hole-in-her-Stocking in the mystic art of making gin-slings and oatmeal FLAP-JACKS, in which, contrary to all precedent, Bill takes the cake, and Hole-in-her-Stocking doesn't get any.—*Texas Siftings*, July 7, 1888.

**FLASH DISPENSARY.**—A boarding house is so called.

**FLASHY.**—In Virginia, used of anything that is unproductive, acid or sour. Thus, crab-apples, sloes, etc., would be called *flashy*.

**FLAT.**—(1) Low alluvial land; a river shoal equivalent to bottom land. —(2) A hat worn by women similar to the large leghorn, broad-brimmed and low crowned. —(3) Short for **FLAT-BOAT** (*q.v.*). —(4) A dismissal at the hands of a lover; a jilting, from which usage is derived.—To **FLAT**.—To jilt or to reject a lover. This is a Western colloquialism.—To **FEEL FLAT**.—To be low-spirited, dejected.—To **FLAT OUT**.—This also is a Western phrase, which, used both as a noun and a verb, first saw the light in politics; now, however, it is generally colloquial.—**FLAT-BROKE**.—Equivalent to dead-broke; that is, utterly ruined.—**FLAT**.—Used adjectively, this carries with it the idea of thoroughness, *e.g.*, a *flat* lie, and approaches very closely to the meaning of the word as expressed in a *flat* contradiction.

The statement that any person has lost money in the leading properties is a *flat* lie. The mines have sold repeatedly up to high figures; if they have declined a reaction has invariably taken place.—*San Francisco News Letter*, February 4, 1888.

Compare this last signification with **FLAT-FOOTED**.

**FLAT-BOAT.**—A rude kind of river craft, now largely superseded on the Mississippi by steam, but once the principal means of travel and transport for produce on the Great Western rivers. These craft, a slight improvement on the more primitive raft, were ark-like in shape, being slightly roofed in for protection against the weather. Their length varied from 50 to 100 feet, with a width of 15 feet or more. Strongly built of massive logs, they were used for carrying immense quantities of produce and live-stock to market, the boat itself being broken up, and the logs of which it was composed sold on arrival at its destination.

This house is now owned and lived in by Mrs. Martin Connelly. The Sheridans lived there but a short time and went by **FLAT-BOAT**—the usual method of travel in the West in those early days—to Ohio, and were not heard of again until the infant had grown to manhood and become one of the most celebrated heroes of the day.—*Pittsburg Times*, February 25th, 1888.

*Flat-boats* still linger on some of the remote water-ways of the West, where they still retain the name, **KENTUCKY-FLATS**, **BROAD HORNS** and **ARKS**.—To **FLAT-BOAT**.—This word is derived from the craft of the same name, as also is—**FLAT-BOATMAN**, amongst the most notable of whom was once numbered Abraham Lincoln, who was actually nicknamed the *flat-boatman* after he became president.

**FLAT-FOOTED.**—A synonym for honesty; earnestness; and resolution. A man who is thorough, whose heart and soul are devoted to the interests of his party, is said to be *flat-footed*; and, politically, no higher praise can be bestowed upon a man. From politics the phrase has become colloquial, and in *Harper's Magazine*, a brawny, stalwart son of Vulcan, described as a man of strong will and a zealous disciple of Tom Paine, is said to have had a "bold *flat-footed* way of saying things," which considerably impressed his neighbors. The term is Western in origin, and the simile, of course, is that of a man standing firmly, with back to wall, resolved to accomplish his purpose, and, if driven to extremity, to lay down his life in the attempt. Compare with the French *plat-pied*, a mean, contemptible fellow.

**FLAT SIDE OF EARTH.**—This side the grave.—Compare with **TOP OF DIRT**.

The district schoolmaster hain't got a friend on the **FLAT SIDE OF EARTH**. The boys snowball him during recess; the girls put hot water in his hair-dye; and the school-



committee make him work for half the money a bar-tender gets, and board him around the neighborhood, where they give him rye coffee, sweetened with molasses, to drink, and codfish balls three times a day for victuals.—*Josh Billing's Works*, p. 325.

**FLAT TOP** (*Vernonia noveboracensis*).—The Northern name for the iron-weed of Kentucky.

**FLAX ROUND, TO**.—In New England this signifies energetic movement; to beat.

**FLEA-BANE** (*Erigeron canadense*).—This is not the English plant of the same name, but is a medicinal herb, largely used in the well-known Shaker preparations, as an astrigent and diuretic.

**FLEA BITTEN**.—A Texas term to describe the color of a horse or other animal dotted with minute specks of black and white, like pepper and salt.

A spirited FLEA-BITTEN gray mare fell to my lot when the straws were drawn, and Kelly and the doctor patronized the wagon.—*San Francisco Weekly Examiner*, March 22, 1888.

**FLESHY**.—This word, which had fallen into disuse in the Mother Country, has been retained in America. It is now making its way into popular English speech again, though still regarded as "vulgar" by "society." In the sense of "stout" it was used by Ben Jonson.

**FLICKER** (*Picus amatus*).—The golden-winged woodpecker, or yellow-hammer. By the early settlers this bird was called the CLAPE, while in Western New York it is known as the HIGH-HOLE. Further South, in Louisiana, it is called FIGUE BOIS JAUNE.

**FLIES**.—I'VE NO FLIES ON ME, OR THERE AIN'T NO FLIES ON HIM, are slang phrases which, like most expressions of the kind, convey an insinuated rather than a direct meaning. *There ain't no flies on him*, signifies that he is a man of quick parts; one not quiet long enough for moss to grow on his heels; one who is wide awake, and knows a thing without its being kicked into him by a mule.

Adam and Ebe was turned outen dar property on account ob dar sinfulness ob eaten ob de forbidden fruit, so we am tole in holy writ, but hit's de 'pinyon ob yer belubbed pasture, who reads de papers and ain't got no FLIES ON HIM, dat dey would hab been turned out, anyhow. Jay Goul', or som' udder mernopolis, would hab come aroun' and claimed de groun' some time; and dey would hab got hit, too.—*Texas Siftings*, August, 1888.

Persons who are capable of descending to New York and Boston English are fully justified in saying that there are no FLIES on St. Louis or the St. Louis delegation either.—*Missouri Republican*, February 24, 1888.

—Sometimes the expression is more vulgarly put as "no fleas."

**FLINT-CORN**.—A variety of maize.

**FLINT IN, TO**.—To perform or act with energy, and without standing on ceremony. Applied to all kinds of actions, even to eating. Also merely employed as a variant of TO CHIP IN (*q.v.*).

**FLIP**.—A beverage of brandy, beer and sugar, made hot and foaming by means of a red-hot poker. De Vere somewhat mixes cause and effect, however, when he says that it was considered as productive of sore ankles and shins, so that old gentlemen in knee-breeches and long stockings would frequently wear handkerchiefs tied around their legs. — From the Swedish *flepp*.

**FLIP, To.**—To put or place down. Probably a corruption of "flop," to fall suddenly.

I stepped into Blank's just now for a little purchase, and you know what a stunning little creature there is in one of the departments. No? Well, she's there, anyhow, and a half-dollar was coming to me in change. Maybe you think she **FLIPPED** it carelessly on to the counter? Not much! She held it out to me in one of her little white hands.—*Detroit Free Press*, May 5, 1888.

**FLIP-FLOPPUSED.**—Played out; in a state of collapse. A variation of the American usage of "to flummox" and "to flop." Said to be common in Arkansas.

**FLITTER.**—A corruption of "fritter."

**FLOATER.**—A local political term in Texas for a candidate representing several constituencies.

**FLOATING BATTERIES.**—A slang term sarcastically applied to the bread rations served out to Confederate soldiers during the Rebellion.

**FLOCK.**—To FIRE INTO THE WRONG FLOCK.—To make a mistake; to blunder. A variant is TO BARK UP THE WRONG TREE. Both terms are of pioneer origin.

**FLOOR.**—To HAVE OR HOLD THE FLOOR.—A Congress phrase equivalent to the English Parliamentary expression "to be in possession of the House." A common though vulgar mode of expression, is, "Now dry up, for I've the floor," i.e., "Cease talking, for I am going to do so."

After a half hour's recess Mr. Glover took the floor. He said he hadn't intended to say anything, but certain assertions of the contestant's counsel called for a personal reply.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, March 11, 1888.

**FLOOR-WALKER.**—A shop-walker.

A tall old lady dressed in black, with a business-like air and water-wave curls, sailed into one of the large dry goods stores in Twenty-third Street, and declining the service of a **FLOOR-WALKER**, made directly for the crape counter.—*American Humorist*, 1888.

**FLOP-UP.**—A day's tramp; a SOT-DOWN being equivalent to half a day's travel. **FLOP-UP TIME** is bed-time.

'Stranger, did ye lope it?' (come on foot). 'Yes.'

'A mile or a sot-down?'

'More'n that. About a dozen **FLOP-UPS**.'

—*Detroit Free Press*, September 15, 1888.

**FLOUR, To.**—To convert grain into flour. So also flouring-mill.

**FLOUR CITY.**—Rochester, also **FLOWER CITY**. It is to be noted that Springfield likewise bears the latter name. Rochester derives its double nickname respectively from its nursery trade, and on account of its being the centre of flour mills.

**FLOUR DOIN'S.**—Wheaten bread; fare of a superior kind.

It was a nice weddin'; sich raisins and oranges and hams, **FLOUR DOIN'S** and chicken fixins, and four sich uncommon big gobblers roasted, I never seed.—*New York Spirit of the Times*.

**FLUB-DUB AND GUFF.**—Rhetorical embellishment; what a Yankee also calls **HIGH-FALUTIN'**.

Rev. Mr. Selah (to desk editor of the *Daily Roarer*)—'Mr. Seezars, are you going to publish my prayer in full?'

Desk Editor—'In full? Well, I guess not. (Changing his tone)—'However, we'll do what we can for you. By swiping out the **FLUB-DUB AND GUFF**, I guess we'll have room to put in the points.'—*Detroit Free Press*, August, 1888.

**FLUME.**—A narrow passage confining water for the purpose of turning a mill-wheel. From Anglo-Saxon *flum*, a stream; or Latin *flumen*, a

river. The term is of course thoroughly good English, but is far more largely colloquial in America, and in some idiomatic senses is used in a manner quite unknown in England.

'Look-a-here, you needn't squeal,' cried the claim-jumper as Mrs. Hammon ran shrieking toward them with the children clinging, terror-stricken, to her gown. 'You and the kids has got to get, instanter. You hear? You've got to slope, slide, take to the FLUME, get out of this right off or join the throng,' and he and his friends laughed boisterously.—*The Critic*, April 14, 1888.

A solitary ranch was passed the first day of the voyage, and for many miles there was a vestige of former human occupancy in the shape of a long-abandoned FLUME, that once furnished water for placer-mining.—*Century Magazine*, 1887.

'Now we're all right, pard. Let's start fresh. Don't you mind my snuffling a little—becuz we're in a power of trouble. You see, one of the boys has GONE UP THE FLUME.—'

'Gone where?'

'Up the FLUME—threwed up the sponge, you understand.'—*Mark Twain's The Innocents at Home*, p. 19.

**FLUMMA-DADDLE.**—"This," says De Vere, "is a holiday mess of New England fishermen, who lick their chops at the very mention of this oddly named delicacy." It is a "mess" indeed. It consists of a number of ingredients, the most important of which are stale bread, pork-fat, molasses, cinnamon, all-spice, and cloves; by the aid of these materials a kind of mush is made, which is baked in the oven and brought to the table hot and brown.

**FLUMMUX.**—A college term for a failure or poor recitation.—**TO FLUMMUX.**—A common provincialism in England, which, according to Halliwell, is used in the sense of to overcome, frighten, bewilder, foil, disappoint, etc., but which in America indicates the abandon-

ment of a purpose; to give in; to die.

**FLUNK.**—A backing out; the idea of fear being conveyed as the cause of such action.

Announcement is made that the senate, in executive session, postponed considering the English extradition treaty until next December, which can only mean that Riddleberger forced the presidential possibilities of the senate to a complete FLUNK.—*Missouri Republican*, February 11, 1888.

In college phraseology it indicates a failure.—So also in both senses TO FLUNK, OR TO FLUNK OUT.

A keerness man in his talk was Jim,  
And an awkward man in a row;  
But he never FLUNKED, and he never lied,  
I reckon he never know'd how.  
—*John Hay.*—*Jim Bludsoe of the Prairie Belle.*

The word was once current in England, where, however, the only survival is FLUNKEY. *Flunkey* has by no means the same signification in America as in England. Besides the college usage, as explained above, it is employed by brokers in Wall Street to novices who seek ruin by dabbling in stocks of which they have no knowledge.

**FLUTTER WHEEL.**—A small water-wheel.

**FLY AROUND, TO.**—To move about quickly.—From this is obtained its still more slangy intensive, TO FLY ROUND AND TEAR ONE'S SHIRT.—Hence the derivative adjective FLY in the sense of cute, knowing, etc., a slang variant which is perfectly familiar in England. A correspondent of the *San Francisco News Letter* illustrates still another meaning when he says (Feb. 4, 1888), "I'm just gettin' sick 'n tired o' the way 't them fly dames go on, 'n the way 't the fellahs hang round 'em 'n dance with 'em 'n so forth."



The *fly*-dames here referred to belonged to the frail sisterhood class.

The frequency of recent conviction and punishment of semi-political criminals is evidence of the working of the quickened conscience of the American people. Each conviction is a lesson to the youthful politician that *FLYNESS* and smartness cannot be pleaded in mitigation of contempt of honor.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, March 8, 1888.

**FLYERS.**—In the slang of railway men, fast trains.

In spite of the strike, passenger trains, excepting what are known as the *FLYERS*, are running with reasonable regularity, although generally behind time. The mails are getting through, too.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, March, 2, 1888.

**FLYING AXE-HANDLES.**—See *HANDLE*.  
(TO FLY OFF THE HANDLE.)

**FLYING BRAND.**—A brand used for cattle by the ranchmen of the Western plains.—See *BRAND*.

**FLYING FISH.**—Otherwise called the *SEA-ROBIN* and the *PIG-FISH*. This is not the true *flying fish* of the tropics, the name in this case being an allusion to its general appearance in the water when supported by its long outstretched fin.

**FLY LIGHT, TO.**—To take things easily; to make oneself comfortable.

When we see a monk sitting on a rock, looking tranquilly up to heaven, with a human skull beside him, and without other baggage, we know that that is St. Jerome, because we know that he always went *FLYING LIGHT* in the matter of baggage.—*Mark Twain's Screemers*.

**FOLKS.**—So generally used in America for "people" or "folk," that it may be included among colloquial Americanisms. In the South white people are called *WHITE FOLKS*, where also the derivative adjective *FOLKSY* is current.

**FOLLES AROINES.**—Wild rice. So called by the early French settlers.

**FOO-FOO.**—A contemptuous term for an insignificant person. New York.

**FOOL AROUND, TO.**—To hang about; an idea of resentment to the presence of the person addressed or spoken of is generally implied. When applied to a man given to dangling about a woman's skirts, the meaning is more akin to the original signification of "to flirt."

Mose—Now look a-here, Liz,—I go in for Bill Sykes, 'cause he runs wid our machine; but he musn't come *FOOLIN'* ROUND my gal, or I'll give him fits.—*A Glance at New York*.

**FOOL-FISH.**—The file-fish; said to derive its uncomplimentary name from its manner of locomotion.

**FOOL'S GOLD.**—Ore which, from its appearance, misleads the novice in mining, so true is it that "all is not gold that glitters." The genuine article by no means looks its value.

To the man who desires to engage and invest in mining matters, I say: come out to the mining regions, look around, take off your coat and go to work, learn how to mine, learn how to distinguish between *FOOL'S GOLD* and the genuine article; learn how to recognise the precious metal-bearing ores when you see them.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, April 29, 1888.

**FOOT.**—To *PULL FOOT*.—To go forward; to advance; not to let the grass grow under one's feet. Variants are "to take one's foot in one's hand," "to make tracks," etc.

**FOOT-STOVE.**—An old-time contrivance used as a foot-warmer.

**FOOTY, FOUTY.**—This has the meaning of either a mistake, a blunderer who commits the same, or one who for any reason is held in light

esteem. Bartlett quotes it as local in Massachusetts.

**FORBIDDEN FRUIT** (*Citrus paradisi*).—A fruit which in size, shape, and other particulars is very like the shaddock. West Indies.

**FORCE**.—A gang of laborers.

**FOREFATHERS' DAY**.—A holiday kept in New England, in commemoration of the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers at Plymouth, Mass., on December 22nd, 1620.

At an early period, the people of Plymouth began to celebrate the arrival of the Leyden colonists at that place, and the particular day selected, was that which they supposed to correspond with December 11th, old style. Their astronomy being at fault, they observed the 22nd, new style, instead of 21st as required. Some time ago the Pilgrim Society of Plymouth appointed a committee to inquire into the facts, and, while they admit the astronomical error, they recommend the continuance of the observance of the 22nd. An attempt, however has been made to show that the 22nd, old style, was the day commemorated, but of this no proof has been given, while it is sufficiently clear that the 11th of December, old style, was the day held in mind.

**FORE-HANDED**.—In English dictionaries the meaning of this word is given as early; timely; with a supplementary signification of easy circumstances. This last meaning is rarely heard in England, but is perfectly colloquial in America.

I'll work and board with you. I know there is no need for it. Father is FOREHANDED; he says I can go to school, but I ain't going to try it.—*Putnam's Magazine*.

**FOREIGN**.—American usage in respect to this word does not run on the same lines as that current in England. An Englishman is as much a foreigner to an American as are the French and Italians, whereas in England no such distinction is ever made. The MUNROE DOCTRINE (*q.v.*) is largely respon-

sible for the antipathy, which year by year grows in intensity, to anything not American. The fruits of this have latterly been most marked in the action taken in regard to emigration generally, and Chinese emigration in particular.

**FORELADY**.—A forewoman.—*See* LADY, for comparison between English and American usage of "woman" and "lady."

**FORE-PAY**.—Payment beforehand, as in the Western variation of the old proverb, there are two bad payments—"no pay and *fore* pay."

**FOREST CITY**.—No less than three cities in the Union claim this sobriquet on account of the lavish manner in which trees adorn their thoroughfares—Savannah, in Georgia; Portland, in Maine; and Cleveland, in Ohio.

**FORGE AHEAD, TO**.—To advance with alacrity; rapid progression.

Long Island is FORGING AHEAD in the animal sagacity line.—*New York Telegram*, 1888.

**FORGET IT!**—AND DON'T YOU FORGET IT.—One of the senseless catch-phrases which every now and then seem to seize hold of the popular taste (or want of taste) and run their course like wildfire through all the large centres of population. They convey no especial idea, rational or irrational, and can only be described as utterly senseless and vulgar.

There can be no two opposing opinions in that respect. Great capital demands dividends. Dividends can be had only from a prosperous business. A prosperous business must recognize the law of supply and demand, and if the public demand dirt the newspapers will furnish dirt—AND DON'T

YOU FORGET IT.—*Boston Weekly Globe*, Feb. 29, 1888.

'Did you see any Quakers in Philadelphia?' was asked of a Detroitier who lately returned from that city.

'Only one that I was sure of.'

'Did he thee and thou you?'

'He did. He got down off his hack and said: "If thee don't pay me 2 dols. I'll knock thy blamed head off," and I paid, although I knew the regular fare was twelve shillings. You don't want to fool with those Quakers any, AND DON'T YOU FORGET IT.'—*Detroit Free Press*, Oct. 6, 1888.

**FOR GOD'S SAKE.**—A curious mode of stating that a thing is thoroughly or well done, and probably of Puritan derivation; thus, such quaint phrases are sometimes heard as, "that orchard was planted for God's sake"; or, similarly, "a building is erected for God's sake"; the meaning in each case being simply that the work was effectively done.

**FORNENT.**—This old word, from the Lowland Scotch, still lives on in America; it is pronounced, however, as *fernent* or *fernest*. Chiefly heard in Pennsylvania.

Banker—'What's the matter, Pat?'

Patrick—'Sure there's three moor ov thim hathen Chinymen started a laundry right FORNENT the other two. Bad luck to 'em; they'll ruin this foine country!'

Banker—'In what way?'

Patrick—'Takin' the money out ov it.'—*Puck*, 1888.

**FORTY-'LEVEN.**—A slang phrase indicative of indefiniteness to the last degree. The first part of the word is thought to be, in all probability, the familiar number used, like other round numbers in Hebrew, as an indefinite expression. Boys say, "You have scared me like *forty*," and teamsters boast of a powerful horse, that will pull like *forty*. The addition of *eleven* is the element of incongruity added to the humorous exaggeration already expressed, and thus a *forty-eleventh* cousin, for instance, expresses an

infinitesimal degree of relationship, one too small to be stated accurately, and hence given in fictitious numbers. *Forty-'leven* sounds like a negroism.

[He] rid me roun' to see the place, entirely free 'f expense,  
With FORTY-'LEVEN new kines o' sarse without no charge acquainted me,  
Gi' me three cheers, an' vowed thet I wuz all their fahncy painted me.

—*Biglow Papers*.

**FORTY-NINER, 49-ER.**—1849 was the year of the great gold fever and general exodus to California.

In the characters appear the same old contrasts between the California FORTY-NINER and the more refined [characters], a contrast which is certainly amusing but a trifle monotonous even to the warmest admirers of Mr. Harte's genius.—Review of Bret Harte's 'Drift from Redwood Camp' in *Christian Intelligencer* (N.Y.), February 22, 1888.

**FORTY ROD LIGHTNING.**—Whiskey of the most villainous description; so called because humorously warranted to kill at *forty rods*.

**FORWARDLY.**—Already. Compare with firstly.

'Hip! And you'un don't want to marry me!' shouted Deb.

'I—I can't, my child.'

'Mebbe you'un is FORWARDLY (already) jined?' queried the mother.

'Yes.'

'Hip! And I sot sich store by he'un! wailed Deb as she sat down and began to cry.'—*Detroit Free Press*, September 15, 1888.

**FOTCH, FOTCHED.**—Negro corruptions for "fetch" and "fetched."

I do believe me and Nancy was beliked by the Indians; and many's the venison and turkey they FOTCH'd us as a sort of present, and maybe a kind of pay for bread-stuffs and salt Nancy used to give them.—*Carlton's The New Purchase*.

I was soon FOTCH'd up in the victualling line—and I busted for the benefit of my creditors.—*J. C. Neal, Dolly Jones*.



**FOUL HAND** (In Poker).—A hand composed of more or less than five cards.—*The American Hoyle*.

**FOUND.**—A corruption for "find" which is sometimes heard.

**FOUNDATION.**—A *foundation* in Montana means four logs laid across each other so as to form a square, and is a legal notification of intent to build a cabin and take up a claim. In other localities such titles are called **NOTICES**, etc.

The two **FOUNDATIONS** so near together were evidences of a dispute about the title to the little strip of meadow land, on which the occupants perhaps expected to find gold.—*Century Magazine*, 1887.

**FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT PERSUASION.**—Negroes: From the number of the clause amending the Constitution of the United States when slavery was abolished. — See **COLORED**.

To take the law is one of the greatest privileges in the estimation of the colored folk that the **FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT** conferred, and, whether offender or defendant, they take a pride in summonses beyond describing.—*The Times Democrat*, February 5, 1888.

**FOX, TO.**—(1) A shoemaker's term. To repair boots, and—(2) In Canada, to play truant from school.

**FOX-FIRE.**—The name given to rotten wood found in swampy places, and which, at night, presents a phosphorescent appearance.

**FOX GIRLS, THE.**—Three sisters—Leah, Margaretta, and Catherine, the last named being more familiarly known as Katie—to whose instrumentality the strange and marvellous movement called **MODERN SPIRITUALISM** (*q.v.*) owes its origin. Although the two elder sisters

were largely concerned, yet to Katie, the youngest of the three, belongs the special honor of being the instrument of its introduction. Briefly, the story runs as follows:—"The family of David Fox, at Hydesville, N.Y., were disturbed by a certain inexplicable knocking in the beginning of the year 1848. The little girl, Kate, aroused from her evening slumber by the noise and the alarm of the family, asked the unknown cause of the sounds to give a certain number of raps. It did so; and 'Oh, mother!' the little girl exclaimed, 'it hears what I say; it knows what I tell it; for it has rapped the number of times I asked it!' Here was a discovery: the phenomena had an intelligent cause!" From this small beginning it is difficult to say, in view of subsequent developments, what the end will be. The three girls in question soon became famous, the little frame-house at Hydesville, and later the public-hall at Rochester, became the centre of an enthusiastic spirit of inquiry, such as has been seldom known. Leah, in after life, married Mr. Underhill, the well-known banker of New York; Margaretta became the wife of Dr. Kane, the Arctic explorer; while Katie Fox married Mr. H. D. Jencken, a London barrister. All three sisters are still living.

**FOX GRAPE** (*Vitis labrusca*, or in the South *Vitis vulpina*).—A large berried grape. Its name is said to arise from its rank, fox-like taste. As, however, the juice, when fermented, is very intoxicating, it is more probable that its distinctive name is derived from the old English "fox," to intoxicate.

**FRACTIONAL CURRENCY.**—The legal term by which the nickel and cop-

per coins issued since the war are known. These are all of small denomination, being fractional parts of silver coins already in use, hence the name.

**FRAGGLE, To.**—In Texas, people are not robbed, they are only *fraggled*, which, however, amounts to much the same thing.

**FRAME HOUSE.**—A house made of timber. In all new districts the houses are of this character, and in many instances the mushroom-cities which here and there have sprung up in an incredibly short space of time have been composed entirely of *frame houses*. The transition to frame shells with stucco fronts, and thence to brick and stone houses is gradual.

**FRAUD.**—In addition to the English slang sense of trickery and cheating, another meaning is colloquially current in the States, whence it has made its way to this country. Proctor thus explains it. A person is called a *fraud*, not, as Bartlett says, when he is a cheat, or at least not necessarily to signify that he is a cheat, but when he disappoints expectations. Thus an actor, of whom great things had been heard, but who should be judged not so clever as had been anticipated, would be described as a *fraud*, but certainly not with the idea of attributing actual dishonesty to him. So a picture, or a book, or play, which proved disappointing, is called a *fraud*, without attributing (necessarily) any trickery to the painter or author. In fact, the word is often applied to a landscape or other natural object or phenomenon. For instance, the constellation of the Southern

Cross has before now been called a *fraud* by those Americans who see it for the first time under unfavorable conditions, *i.e.*, unless it is nearly upright on the southern horizon. The nearest English equivalent is the slang use of the word "sell."

**FREE.**—A term, the significance of which, in one sense, has long since passed away. Before the abolition of slavery, the adjective *free* was used as the antithesis of that institution. Thus, **FREE-LABOR** was that performed by *free*-men and not slaves. The term *free-labor* has, however, again become the question of the day, in so far as it concerns the impending conflict between capital and labor, the point at issue being whether the employer shall monopolize by far the lion's share of the wealth created by others. It is also doubtless well within the memory of people still living, that products such as cotton, sugar, etc., were described in this country as slave-grown sugar, *free-cotton*, etc. So with the term *free-nigger* and *free-soil*, etc.

**FREE-FIGHTER.**—A free lance; so used during the Civil War.

**FREE-LOVE.**—A theory and practice which, during one decade, spread like wild-fire throughout the States. It advocated promiscuity in sexual intercourse, and the grain of truth enshrined in the idea was swamped by this terribly fatal defect. Compare with **AFFINITY**.—From this word come the derivatives **FREE-LOVERS** and **FREE-LOVEISM**.

**FREE LUNCH FIEND.**—In American drinking saloons, morsels of food are pretty generally provided gratis for those who care to partake of them when drinking. The *free lunch fiend*,

therefore, is one who makes a meal off what is really provided as a snack. He pays for a drink, but shamefacedly manages in this way to get something more than his money's worth.

**FREE SOILERS.**—This party began to show strength in 1848, with the avowed purpose of restricting slavery to its then existing limits. It was preceded by and grew out of the "Liberty Party," which never developed much strength, and in 1853 was merged in the Republican Party.—Also **FREE SOILISM** in a similar sense.

**FREE STATES.**—A term formerly applied to those States in which negro slavery did not exist.

**FREE-STONE PEACH.**—A variety of peach in which the stone is easily detached from the pulp of the fruit.

**FREE STONE STATE.**—Connecticut, which is also known as the Blue Law State and the Nutmeg State.

**FREE TO SAY: FREE TO CONFESS.**—To acknowledge without hesitation.

**FREEZE, TO.**—To **FREEZE ON TO**, is, generally speaking, to adhere closely to a thing.

Thet I FRIZ DOWN right where I wuz, merried the Widder Shennon,  
(Her thirds was part in cotton-land, part in the curse o' Canaan),  
An' here I be ez lively ez a chipmunk on a wall,  
With nothin' to feel riled about much later'n Eddam's fall.

The competence of a juror was judged by Lawyer Forrest by a man's faith in newspaper articles, impressionability to the lovely Maud's back-number history, his ability to shake ready-formed opinions and **FREEZE ON TO** new ones as they should be manufactured by real live facts in the evidence about to come, his desire to give a fair trial to a

woman, and his undying hatred to stale notions of sentimentality.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, March 2, 1888.

—Another meaning is to become possessed of an intense longing for anything; as I *freeze* to go back, would be the expression of one thoroughly home-sick. — To **FREEZE OUT**, applied to persons, is to compel them to do one's will, the idea conveyed being that of unfair pressure.

**FREEZE OUT.**—In *freeze-out* poker, each player exposes an equal amount at the beginning of the game, which cannot be added to from any source, other than winnings from other players. No player can retire with any of this stake until the close of the game, or the hour fixed for its close; no player can be deprived of a call, if he puts up all his money; and no player, when his money is exhausted, can borrow, or continue in the game on credit under any circumstances.—*The American Hoyle*.

**FREEZER.**—A refrigerator.

**FREIGHT CAR.**—A goods van, and similarly, a freight train is the goods train of English railways.—See **RAILROAD TERMINOLOGY**.

**FRESH**—A Southern phrase for bold; forward; and a person putting himself *en évidence* when not required, would be described as a little too *resh*.

**FRESHET.**—This word has changed its meaning in American usage, where it means a flood. J. Russell Lowell says, "Our New England cross between Ancient Pistol and Dugald Dalgethy; Captain Underhill uses the word (1638) to mean a "current," and I do not recollect



it elsewhere in that sense. I, therefore, leave it with a ? for future explorers."

Just in front of the ranch verandah is a line of old cottonwoods that shade it during the fierce heat of summer, rendering it always cool and pleasant. But a few feet beyond these trees comes the cut-off bank of the river, through whose broad, sandy bed, the shallow stream winds as if lost, except when a FRESHET fills it from brim to brim with foaming yellow water.—*Ranch Life in the Far West*.

The worst FRESHET in the annals of this section of Western Massachusetts occurred last night, resulting in much damage to property.—*New York Weekly Times*, February 22, 1888.

**FRIENDS.**—This word is used where in England we employ *relations*.

**FRIJOLES.**—The Spanish name for kidney beans.

**FRILLS.**—TO PUT ON FRILLS is generally synonymous with an assumption of style in which conceit and bumptiousness play a considerable part. In English slang it would be called, "Putting on side," or as 'Arry would put it, being "All there."

'You think you're a good deal of a big-bug, don't you?'

'Maybe I am, maybe I ain't,' I says. 'Don't you give me none o' your lip,' says he. 'You've PUT ON considerable many FRILLS since I been away. I'll take you down a peg before I get done with you.'—*Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

At the same time a somewhat less offensive meaning is conveyed in other instances, when accomplishments such as music, French, German, etc., are called *frills*. The use of *frills* in this sense must have arisen from the teaching of philosophy, that "Manners form the outer garment of the man's individuality."

Ain't you a sweet-scented dandy, though? A bed; and bedclothes; and a look'n-glass; and a piece of carpet on the floor—and your

own father got to sleep with the hogs in the tan yard. I never see such a son. I bet I'll take some of these FRILLS out of you before I'm done with you.—*Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, p. 33.

**FRISCO.**—An abbreviation of San Francisco.

**FROE.**—A chopper or cleaver.

**FROG.**—In railway parlance the rail at the point where two lines intersect.

Express train No. 8, on the New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio Railroad, was thrown from the track by a broken FROG while passing Steamburg Station, New York, early this morning. The engine and first two cars passed over safely, but the third coach left the rails and dashed into the caboose of a freight train lying on a side track.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, February 6, 1888.

**FROLIC.**—An American equivalent of the English "junketing." The merriment of some of these *frolics* is harmless enough; with others it is otherwise—very much so.

**FRONT-NAME.**—The Christian name.

**FROST-FISH** (*Morrhua pruinosa*).—A small fish which earns its distinctive title from its appearance off the coast in cold weather. It is also familiarly called the TOM-COD.

**FROST-GRAPE.**—The CHICKEN-GRAPE (*q.v.*).

**FROST-WORT** (*Cistus canadensis*).—A herb largely used in the "Shaker preparations."

**FROUTHY.**—Spongy, brittle, or, in fact, applied to anything that is of inferior quality. A North of England provincialism, and colloquial in New England.

**FROWCHY.**—In New York a furbe-  
lowed old woman is so called.  
From the Dutch *vrouwje*.

**FRUITISH.**—A cultivator of fruit trees.  
One of a class of words in 1st,  
some few of which are useful,  
but which in the main are hideous  
monstrosities. What in the world  
can be said for such forms as  
"walkist," "shootist," "singist,"  
"landscapist," and, oh Minerva!  
"obituarist."

**FRUMP, To.**—As primarily used by  
Beaumont and Fletcher in the sense  
of "to insult" it is still current  
in New England. It survives in  
England, however, in "an old  
*frump*," a cross ill-tempered person.

**FULL, FULLED.**—The old participles  
for "filled," and which in the  
South are still used.

**FULL FEATHER.** — To BE IN FULL  
FEATHER; that is, in good trim,  
condition; or, as athletes would  
say, in good "form."

**FULL TEAM.**—A man is a *full team* in  
himself when of consequence in  
the community. The Western  
man's love of horses, both for their  
own sake, and also on account of  
their forming part of his wealth,  
has caused him to draw many a  
smile from them. His best friend he  
dubs OLD HOSS! and no higher credit  
can be paid a man than to have it  
said that he is a *full team*, a whole  
team, or, as it is sometimes put, a  
whole team and a horse to spare.  
On the other hand, anything mean,  
insignificant, or strikingly small,  
is dubbed as ONE-HORSED. — See  
HORSE.

**FUNDUM.**—A derisive term for the bed  
of the sea.

**FUNERAL.**—THIS IS NOT MY FUNERAL,  
*i.e.*, it is no business of mine.  
*Funerals* in America partake largely  
of the nature of a show with set  
pieces, etc.; hence the simile.  
Meddlers are liable to be rebuked  
by being told that it is "none of  
their *funeral*."

After a lot of slides had been exhibited the  
audience howled for Miss Debar. It got  
so noisy that Mr. Marsh reluctantly ex-  
claimed—"Well, is this your FUNERAL or  
mine?" — *Missouri Republican*, April 8, 1888.

**FUNERALIZE, To.**— A minister *funer-  
alizes* when officiating at a burial  
service.

**FUR.**—To MAKE THE FUR FLY.—To  
make a display of temper; to create  
a commotion; or even to proceed  
to extreme measures—to blows and  
actual fighting.

It has been an open secret at the National  
Capital for some two or three months that  
a big revolt against President Cleveland's  
renomination was in process of organiza-  
tion. 'Wait until the National Committee  
assembles on February 22,' said the  
organizer, 'and you will see the FUR FLY from  
the Cleveland hide.' — *Denver Republican*,  
February 29, 1888.

**FURMETY.**—This old English delicacy  
is still known in Maryland. In the  
*Hallamshire Glossary*, *fromety* is de-  
scribed as wheat boiled with milk,  
to which sugar and spice are  
added.

**FUST-OUT, To.**—To prove abortive;  
to end in smoke; to come to  
nothing.

**FUSTY.**—In California a raw hide and  
wood saddle-tree.



**ABBEY** (Cant).—A foolish talker; one who has "the gift of the gab."—Of a similar type is **GABBLEMENT**.—Idle chatter; prating. Both are spurious Southern words, formed from *gab*. (Compare Danish *gab*, "mouth"; Icelandic *gabb*, "mocking.")

**GAGE** (Cant).—Whereas in English slang this signifies a small quantity of tobacco, wine, spirits, etc., in America it stands for "a man."  
—**GAGERS**.—Eyes.

**GAIT** (Cant).—In the patter of the criminal classes, one's *gait* does not so much refer to style or pace in walking, as, by a curious transition, to one's "walk in life"; calling; trade; profession—in short, the manner of making a living is one's *gait*.

**GAL-BOY**.—In New England equivalent to tom-boy. The pronunciation "gal" is also universal; custom on this point varies in the Old Country considerably, though at present *gal* is the only one *à la mode*.

**GALE**.—"The children among their toys and pets were in a regular *gale*," *i.e.*, in a state of pleasant excitement. Obviously of nautical origin.

**GALENA**.—Salt pork, and so named after Galena, Ill., one of the chief hog-raising and pork-packing centres of the country.

**GALL**.—(1) Treacherous boggy lowland, barely cultivable. In Florida called **BAY-GALLS**; or, where Cypress grows on them, **CYPRESS-GALLS**.—(2) **GALL**, as defined in the dictionaries to mean rancour, bitterness of spirit, etc., is, in America, used in a somewhat milder fashion, and on occasions when an Englishman would never dream of employing it. The nearest approach in this sense is the slang word "cheek" or "effrontery"; *e.g.*, where we should say a man has "plenty of brass," a Yankee would employ the word *gall*.

Mr. Blaine's **GALL** in congratulating the Republican party upon the cheerful prospects which distinguish the opening of the national contest of '88, reminds us of a veterinary surgeon in Ohio who attempted the Cæsarian operation upon a valuable blooded cow, and after explaining to the badly rattled granger why it was that both the cow and the calf had to die, added, by way of condolence and congratulation, that Cincinnati was a h-l of a good market for hides and bob veal.—*The Solid Muldoon* (Owray), Colorado, 1888.

**GALLANTIZE, To**.—To show attention to, and wait upon ladies; a decided Americanism, which, however, cannot be said of the word "gallivant," included by both Bartlett and De Vere in their lists. The latter is a good Old English word, which has never lost currency.



One day I took a solitary ride there, while Oliver was GALLANTIZING the ladies, a vocation for which his invincible good-humor and unflinching vivacity eminently qualify him.—(*Letters from the South*, II., p. 147.)

**GALLINIPPER.**—A West Indian insect pest, of large size, akin to a mosquito; they are popularly and facetiously called the "grandfathers" and "grandmothers" of the tribe—from their voracity and powerful sting. Authorities vary with reference to the derivation. Some simply refer it to *gall* and *nip*; but it seems more probable that the English provincialism "gallier," to fight (*galliment*, a great fight), is the true source of the first syllable.

In solitude the lover of nature finds in the smallest insect—a subject of admiration.

Then he must have struck a different breed of insects from what I did when I came the hermit act out in Calaveras Canyon, when the last grand jury was looking for me. I thought the GALLINIPPERS would fly away with me before the seed ticks had sucked all my blood.—*Lippincott's Magazine*, 1888.

**GALOOT.**—Considerable uncertainty exists as to the exact meaning of this word. All that seems clear is that it is applied to human beings; but whether to bipeds in trousers or petticoats, singly or both; old or young; of good standing, morally or physically, or the reverse—all these factors must be represented by *x*. Each example of its use, given by previous authorities, would allow of these interpretations jointly and severally. De Vere merely says *galoot* is a South-western expression of unknown parentage, and quotes as illustrating its use—

I'll hold her nozzle agin the bank,  
Till the last GALOOT'S ashore.  
—John Hay's *Jim Bludsoe of the Prairie Belle*.

Which presumably included men, women, and children. Bartlett,

on the other hand, is inconsistent; inasmuch as, while quoting this self-same passage of a description of a burning boat, he defines *galoot* as "a worthless fellow," "a rowdy"; and in the same breath quotes another instance, in which *galoot* clearly refers to boys and men as such. However, generally speaking, the word seems to signify what in English slang is "a cad." Proctor, while regarding it as a decided Americanism, seems to think that if found anywhere in the Old Country it would be in Scotland or on the border; for it seems to be of French origin, like the Scottish "galopin," an errand-boy, a common lad, and "gamin," a street-boy, a young blackguard. And he further suggests that possibly some light might be thrown upon it in connection with French *argot*. In the following quotation from Mark Twain, it would seem to mean simply a man.

He was the best man that ever — pard. You would have doted on that man. He could lam any GALOOT of his inches in America.—Mark Twain's *The Innocents at Home*, p. 22.

**GALUMPH, To.**—An onomatopoeicism, signifying "to go bumping along," in the manner that tram-cars are apt to do when driven at a high rate of speed on uneven metals. In further explanation of the quotation, it may be remarked that the furious driving of the one-horse cars in the streets of American cities has become a notorious scandal.

The young man tackled the driver of a green bobtail car that GALUMPHED through Lewis-street at a high rate of speed.—*World* (New York), May 13, 1888.

**GALVANISED YANKEES.**—Southerners who, having been taken prisoners during the Civil War, got weary of the confinement and privation,

deserted the Confederate cause, and, taking the oath of allegiance to the Union, served in the armies of the North against their former companions in arms.

**GAM.**—What Scotchmen would call "a long clack"; generally applied to occasions when meeting friends or countrymen in a strange land, or where few opportunities exist for social intercourse.

The GAM was long, but sober and serious; the two sea-dogs knew nothing of each other, and hence were cautious not to let out any of their secrets; they compared reckoning, hoped for whales, and discussed the weather in no complimentary manner.—*H. Melville's Whaling Cruise.*

—To GAM (Cant).—To steal.

**GAN** (Cant).—The mouth or lips.

**GANDER-PARTY.**—A vulgarism for a party of men. Variants are **GANDER-GANG**; **STAG-PARTY**. The term may be compared with the phrase "to go into the buck-hutch," and conversely with "hen-party," "grass-widow," etc.

**GANDER PULLING.**—A brutal game, peculiar to Texas fancy.

Two posts are set firmly in the ground some fifteen feet apart, and about ten or twelve feet high, with a cross bar on top reaching from one post to the other. Underneath the centre of this cross bar is suspended, by means of straps around the body, an old long-necked gander. The neck of the poor doomed bird is denuded of every feather, and smeared over with the sleekiest of soap grease. All is now ready, and [says A. B. Greenleaf, in *Ten Years in Texas*] the rules and regulations are almost as follows. A committee of arrangements, numbering more or less, are appointed, whose duty is to see the game fairly and equitably conducted. An empty cigar box is procured, lid fastened, and a drop-hole made in the top of the lid, through which the entrance fee of fifty cents must be deposited by each one that participates in the game, and this entrance fee must be repeated at each successive entrance.

Two of the said committee stand about thirty feet from the rack, one on either side, with long, keen lash-whips in hand, whose duty it is, when the rider passes through, to give his horse a git-up. Another committeeman stands near the victim, mop in hand, ready to keep the neck slippery. The procession on horse forms in single file, some eighty or a hundred yards distant. They pass through one at a time. The winning card of the game is to grab the head of the gander, and pull it off while passing through. As a general thing they all make a clear miss in their grab for several rounds. The old gander, notwithstanding his bound-up, greasy-eyed, and seemingly awkward condition, uses his long, wiry neck on the dodge with a great deal of dexterity, and it is not until his visionary and physical abilities become somewhat exhausted that the most expert grabber can seize his head; and then it is so far sleek that it slips through the grasp as quick as made. In this way the game is continued until someone with a strong nerve succeeds in wresting the head from the body. Then the box of money is all his. A great many pay their entrance fee of four bits for several rounds just for the sport of the thing, while others have an eye to business. As to the funny part of the thing, I failed to see where or when that part of the drama came in, unless it was when a fellow managed to get a good grip on the head, his horse slipping out from under, and the gander head from above, sprawling him lengthwise in about ten inches of block-loblolly mud. This occurrence was not infrequent. As to the business point, there was some inducement. I learned that in this instance, when the head was pulled off, the box contained over one hundred dollars.

Bartlett says this devilish sport is practised in England. Had he not joined "the greater number," he ought certainly to have been asked for chapter and verse, for, as Proctor rightly surmises, it must have been derived from the more barbarous of the Indian races. He (Proctor) declines to call this disgusting sport brutalizing, because "no one could by any possibility be made more brutal than he must already be to engage in it."

**GANGE, To.**—A Spanish derivative (*Gancho*; a hook or crook). To attach a hook to a line.

**GAR.**—*See* ALLIGATOR GAR.

**GARDEN.**—This is another instance in which English and American usage varies. In England the term is applied to any place set apart for the cultivation of plants, fruits, flowers, and vegetables; but, in America, by *garden*, a market-garden only would be understood; while the flower or kitchen-gardens attached to English houses are called "yards," a word which, in England, is usually applied to a paved enclosed space. — **GARDEN CITY.**—Chicago in Illinois, and Savannah in Georgia. Both claim the sobriquet on account of their numerous gardens and trees. Savannah is, however, also called the FOREST CITY.—*See* NAMES.—**GARDEN OF THE WEST.**—Kansas.—**GARDEN OF THE WORLD.**—The region of the Mississippi.—*See* NAMES.—**GARDEN SPOT.**—The extreme fertility and agricultural wealth of a district in Kentucky and Tennessee, have led to the bestowal of this sobriquet.—*See* NAMES.—**GARDEN STATE.**—Kansas. Also called SQUATTER STATE (*q.v.*). The former epithet comes from its fertile soil, and well cultivated lands.—**GARDEN TRUCK.**—Market-garden produce.—*See* TRUCK.

**GARMENTURE.**—A generic name for dress.

**GASH DING.** — Half-veiled American Billingsgate; a conscience-tickling oath.

Farmer's wife (limping into the house)—'That brindle cow kicked me, John, an' I'm afraid my leg is broken.' Farmer—'GASH-DING that critter! Is the milk spilled?' *Texas Siftings*, June 30, 1888.

**GASPERAU.**—One of the many names for the ALE WIFE (*q.v.*).

High up in the open fire-place were two dozen hard-wood rods, that severally supported about a dozen GASPERAUX, or alewives, that were undergoing the process of smoking.—*Sam Slick's Wise Saws*, p. 128.

**GAT, GATE.**—A gap; narrow passage; or strait. An old Dutch term which has survived in *Barne-gat* and *Helle-gat* or *Hell-gate*, the latter a narrow passage at the entrance of New York Harbour, which was recently removed by dynamite.

**GATE CITY.**—Keokuk, in Iowa, from its being the point at which the Mississippi becomes navigable.

**GATOR.**—A negro corruption of ALLIGATOR.

Few people pass the alligator pond without stopping, and the boys, when opportunity presents, take special delight in punching the 'GATORS with sticks or pieces of boards in order to see them dodge around from one place to another.—*Florida Times Union*, February 8, 1888.

**GAUM, TO.**—To smear. Still provincial in England, and colloquial in the States, this word may be regarded as a survival of Elizabethan English.

**GAUNTED OR GA'NTED.**—Thin. It may be worth noticing that "puny" always means sickly; "pearly," lively, or well.

'Iz ter dat,' said Uncle Nate, judiciously, 'I ain't no jedge. Looks right puny an' GA'NTED, but I lay it git over dat at we uns'. I wisht ye well, sah!'—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1888.

**GAWNICUS.**—A dolt; in all likelihood a fictitious enlargement of "gawk."

**GAZON.**—The carpet grass of dry uplands.



**GEAR-UP, To.**—A Pennsylvanian term for "to harness." Wright gives "gears" as horse-trappings.

**GEE.**—To GEE WITH.—To agree with; to get on with; the phrase has been adopted from, "gee wo!" (Italian *gio*—get on), addressed to a horse.

Mr. Conreid is better known as a German manager than as a star, though he became the latter before he was the former. As a manager, however, he brought Ludwig Barnay to this country and started him out on an American starring season. But he and Mr. Barnay did not GEE.—*Missouri Republican*, April 8, 1888.

**GEEWHILIKENS!**—An exclamation of surprise equivalent to, and used in the same manner as Whew! Great Cæsar! and other objurgations. Western; also JEEWHILIKENS.

Anxious Traveller—"What time is the West bound express due?"  
Agent—"At two o'clock."  
Anxious Traveller—"It is on time?"  
Agent—"No; three hours late."  
Anxious Traveller—"GEEWHILIKENS! Three hours! What time will she come in, now?"—*Detroit Free Press*, 1888.

**GELT.**—Money. A corruption of the German *geld*.

**GENTILE.**—Amongst Mormons, a contemptuous epithet for all persons outside the Mormon Church, regardless of "color, or previous condition of servitude."

**GENTLE, To.**—To ease; soften; or soothe. A survival of Elizabethan English. Young, in his "Night Thoughts," has the line, "To gentle life's descent." Also applied to the taming of horses by kind treatment.

**GENTLE KANSAS ZEPHYR.**—This is indeed a wolf in a sheep's skin, the gentle zephyr being no less than a

howling hurricane. An idiotic perversion of language without pith or point.

**GENTLEMAN.**—In England, *gentleman* has a distinctive if restricted meaning, which is entirely controverted by popular usage in America. Sir Charles Lyell relates that on asking the landlord of the inn at Corning, a man very attentive to his guests, to find the coachman who had driven him, mine host immediately called out in the bar-room "where is the gentleman that brought this man here?" As a matter of fact the difference as regards the use of both *gentleman* and "lady" in America is most marked; so much so is this the case that to apply them in general society to a white man or woman would be looked upon very much in the light of an insult, as they are usually monopolized by colored "ladies" and "gentlemen." A respectable uncolored (I use the word in the American sense) person is invariably spoken of as a white man. However, this abuse of language is slightly modified as far as the word *LADY* (*q.v.*) is concerned; but, generally speaking, Proctor is right in stating that whenever anyone says "let me introduce this man to you," the chances are of introduction to a good fellow; but when addressed by the ominous words, "Here is a gentleman I should like to introduce to you," one may conclude that the acquaintance of a person engaged in some form of swindling is to be made. — **GENTLEMAN TURKEY.**—A turkey cock—a mock-modest and absurd circumlocution.

**GERMAN.**—A ball; a dance. Formerly *german*, was applied solely to a cotillion.

The flower GERMAN given last Friday evening by Mr. and Mrs. Louis Hite to Miss

Maria Hopkins of St. Louis was the most elegant GERMAN ever given in this city. The favors were all flowers. After each figure the lady would be presented with a bunch of rare flowers.—*Louisville Courier-Journal*, Feb. 16, 1888.

The Misses Cottraux gave a remarkably handsome and delightful GERMAN of thirty couples on Thursday evening. The house was tastefully decorated with palms and rare plants and flowers. The favors were exceedingly novel and pretty.—*Times Democrat*, Feb. 5, 1888.

**GERRYMANDER, To.**—A species of political "cooking of accounts"; so to divide and redistribute electoral districts, that, though in a state, as a whole, a party may have a majority of votes, representation in the Legislature, nevertheless, goes to its opponents. A curious example of this occurred at the last General Election in England upon the question of Home Rule for Ireland. As a matter of fact, the number of individual votes cast in favor of this measure exceeded that of the Dissident Party; but in spite of this fact, representation went to the latter, the Liberal votes being so massed together in some localities, that they were in large part wasted. The origin of the term *gerrymandering* is traced back to the year 1811, when a certain Mr. Ellridge Gerry was Governor of the State of Massachusetts. This official so divided the electoral districts as to ensure a majority of his own party, notwithstanding that the State voted two-thirds against them. Two of these counties, Essex and Worcester, divided without any apparent regard to convenience or propriety, and in spite of protest and argument, presented on the map a most absurd outline. The story goes that Russell, the editor of the *Boston Sentinel*, a paper which had strenuously opposed the scheme, marked the result in colors on a map, and placed it on the wall of

the editorial sanctum. One day, Gilbert Stuart, the eminent painter, looked at the map, and said that the towns which Russell had thus distinguished resembled some monstrous animal. He took a pencil, and with a few touches, added what might represent a head, wings, claws, and tail. "There," said Stuart, "that will do for a salamander." Russell, who was busy with his pen, looked up at the hideous figure, and exclaimed, "Salamander! Call it *Gerrymander*!" The word was immediately adopted in the political vocabulary as a term of reproach to the Democratic Legislature.

The *Boston Herald* takes occasion, apropos of the protest made by the Democrats of Iowa against the election of James F. Wilson to the Senate, to remark that the politicians of the West have a way in nearly all the States of *gerrymandering* in the arrangement of the legislative districts.—*New York Press*, February 2, 1888.

**GET.**—In stable slang, *get* is equivalent to offspring; a foal.

The *Horseman*, of this week, contains the winnings of the *GET* of Glengarry. Glengarry is a brown horse, foaled in 1866, by Thormanby, dam Carbine.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, February 27, 1888.

**GETAWAY.**—Thieves' patter for a locomotive or train. Both are doubtless most convenient at times as a means of flight; hence, one may suppose, the derivation of the term. Also called *GOAWAY*.

**GET AROUND, To.**—To overcome; *e.g.*, to get around an opponent, is to score an advantage over him, etc.

Alderman Prefontaine explained that he had given his consent to the closing of Bismarck-street at the meeting of the Road Committee, because he thought the proprietors were willing. Now that he knew they were opposed to it, he would have to withdraw his consent. He did not agree with Alderman Laurent that it was altogether impossible. He thought some means could be devised of *GETTING AROUND* the difficulty.—*Montreal Herald*, Feb. 21, 1888.

**GET BACK AT, To.**—To satirize; to call to account. Figaro had much the same idea in his mind when he said, "Now step I forth to whip hypocrisy."

Sam Jones has been coming down rough shod on Kansas City femininity for wearing bustles and bunions. As the open letter writers in the newspapers are **GETTING BACK AT** Sam for his fondness for tobacco, it is surmised that English grammar will be the chief sufferer in the controversy.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*, 1888.

**GET RELIGION, To.**—To experience a change of heart and life for the better. Proctor, in defining this phrase, though severe on its misuse, strikes a true key note when he says that there is all the difference in the world between a man *getting religion* and religion getting a man.

Now, brethren and sisters, I'm going to give my experience,—to tell how I **GET RELIGION**.—*Western Pulpit*.

**GET THERE, To.**—To attain one's object; to be successful. The catch-phrase, "he *gets there* just the same," has been and is still very popular.

Ben De Lemos is a shrewd politician of the Hebrew persuasion, and always goes to national Republican conventions as a patron saint to the colored delegates and a wet nurse to the deliberative body. Although not a delegate, **HE GOT THERE ALL THE SAME**. He bought off one delegate whose alternate he was, and rumor says paid yet another to stay at home.—*New York Herald*, July 29, 1888.

Americans commonly have a mistaken idea as to English business methods. The typical American, alert, enterprising, full of snap and go, is apt to try all things by his own standard; and that test leads him to consider the average Englishman slow, unprogressive, and sluggish. The difference, however, is one of methods and not of results. The Englishman aims at the same point that the American does, and, to use a slang expression, **HE GETS THERE JUST THE SAME**—indeed, he **GETS THERE** in better form.—*The Haberdasher*, 1888.

—**GET THERE.**—The quality of attaining one's object. The *Boston*

*Herald* once related a story showing how much of what it called "the much esteemed *get there* quality there is in the genuine Englishman," whose methods are sometimes crude, but who "sticks to it and *gets there*." A gentleman, whose name now stands at the head of the largest wire manufacturing establishment in the world,—it was a very modest concern then,—came to England and bought some steel rods to be shipped to America and drawn into wire. A workman saw them, and made up his mind that wherever they were going there was work for him. He asked no questions, but made up his mind to follow the rods. He saw them loaded on freight cars in Birmingham, made friends with the train hands, and accompanied them to Liverpool. He saw them unloaded at the dock there and kept his eyes on them. He saw them put aboard ship, and took passage for America in that vessel. He saw them landed in Boston, and again kept his eye on them until they were again put on freight cars. Again he followed them till they reached their destination, presented himself to those who received them, told his story, got a job, and kept it until he died, leaving sons behind him who are employed in the same establishment. He knew enough to follow the rods and ask no questions, and he *got there*.

**G'HALS.**—The counterpart of **B'HOYS** (*q.v.*). A female rough, and when bad, very bad.

**GHOULEST.**—A factitious superlative of "ghoulish."

'Whoop up the romping spooks out east of Barstow,' said John Carson, an Atlantic and Pacific railroad man, to a reporter recently. 'I saw you had something in the *Examiner* several weeks ago about the mirage on the Mojave desert and the myriads of



people that were seen in boats about there. Well, they're thickening up. In winter time, you know, they always get thicker. For eight months now I have been running the hundred-mile division out east of Barstow. The spooks used to loom up about every other day. Now we see them nearly all the time. They're the *ghoulest* lot of things, too, I ever did see. They appear in all sorts of shapes.—*Troy Daily Times*, Feb. 4, 1888.

**GIBE, To.**—A thing *gibes* well when pleasing and acceptable; or when it goes well with what it is compared. This sense is thus absolutely antagonistic to the ordinary acceptance of the word.

**GIBRALTAR OF AMERICA.**—Quebec on the St. Lawrence, from its strongly fortified position and situation on a rock.

**GIG (Cant).**—A door is so named; the lock is called a *GIGGER*; and the turnkey, a *GIGGER DUBBER*.

**GIGG (Cant).**—The nose.

**GIGGIT, To.**—To catch fish in a gig, *i.e.*, a light boat; a New England corruption. Idiomatically, to move about with briskness; from "gig," a lively, playful person.

**GILDED ROOSTER.**—THE GILDED ROOSTER ON THE TOP OF THE STEEPLE is a person or thing of importance; or tip-top. Compare with BIG BUG, BIG DOG OF THE TANYARD, etc.

We admit that as a metropolis Chicago is the GILDED ROOSTER ON TOP OF THE STEEPLE, but even GILDED ROOSTERS have no right to the whole corn bin.—*New York Herald*, 1888.

**GILEAD FIR.**—The BALSAM FIR (*q.v.*).

**GILLY (Cant).**—An idiot; a soft pate.

**GILLY FLOWER.**—In New England a variety of apple.

**GILT (Cant).**—A crowbar; possibly on the principle that such gentry make these instruments a means to an end, that end being what is also known to them as *gilt*.—**GILT-DUBBER.**—A thief who prowls about hotels for the purpose of robbery.

**GILYORE (Cant).**—Plenty; obviously a corruption of "galore."

**GIMBAL-JAWED OR GIMBER-JAWED.**—A person the joints of whose jaws are loose, causing them to move with more freedom than is customary, is said to be *gimbal-jawed*. Gimbals are a combination of rings for suspending anything freely, as the compass, etc. Idiomatically, to talk with loquacity; or, in slang parlance, "nineteen to the dozen."

**GIMPY.**—As used colloquially for sprightly or active, this word, which is provincial in England, and occurs as "gimp" in Burns, may be classed among Americanisms.

**GIN AND TIDY.**—Persons when decked out in "best bib and tucker" are occasionally, on the other side of the Atlantic, said to be *gin and tidy*. Query. Is this merely a punning reference to "neat spirit"?

**GINGER.**—Backbone; or staying-power. Transatlantic usage, in respect to this word, is probably only a variation of English slang.

The first symptom you will observe in yourself [when sea-sick] is a desire to suspend all animated conversation, and to listen to an inward voice informing you that your attention is specially called to the fact that the vessel is beginning to be lopsided in her movements. Simultaneously with this you will remark that your spinal column is requiring a hinge, and that considerable GINGER is departing from your resolution

to bear up and enjoy yourself.—*The World*, May 13, 1888.

**GIN MILL.**—A drinking saloon. English rendezvous of this kind are called "palaces." *Gin mill* originated in Boston some forty or fifty years ago. — **GIN SLINGER.**—A tippler whose favorite beverage is gin.

**GIN-SING.**—See SANG.

**GIP** (Cant).—If translated into the jargon of the criminal classes the old proverb would run "set a *gip* to catch a *gip*." A variation of the Cantab "gyp," an undergraduate's servant; the derivation of the word in the latter case being from *γῦψ* a vulture, an allusion to the general rapacity and dishonesty of this class of men.

**GIRD.**—To TAKE A GIRD, to make an effort; to take a shot. One *girds* oneself to special endeavor, and hence this factitious use of the word.

I'd just like TO TAKE ONE GIRD at Globe City, and if I couldn't fetch settlers, I'd cry co-peevi (peccavi). Will you let me try it? —*Putnam's Magazine*.

**GIRDLE, To.**—To cut a strip of bark off a tree round its whole circumference, the result of which is decay and death. A common method in newly-settled countries of clearing forest land. Also called BELTING (see TO BELT).

In all our woods (Ohio) there is not a tree so hard to kill as the prickly horse chestnut. The deepest GIRDLING does not deaden it.—*After dinner speech by Dr. Daniel Drake, a celebrated botanist of the Ohio Valley*.

—A GIRDLING is a place where trees have been so dealt with.

**GISM.**—A synonym for energy, spirit. Probably from the Dutch *geest*.

**GIT! YOU GIT!**—An exclamatory injunction at once laconic, insinuatingly forcible, and full of meaning; equivalent to "there's the door, and your name is Walker"; an injunction to depart in peace while there is yet time; your room is more desirable than your company.

With a great effort the sick man raised himself on one elbow.

Git! he gasped hoarsely; GIT while ye kin! small-pox.

Then he fell back exhausted. Small-pox! Hop Sing gave a great gasp, dropped the basin of broth, and almost tumbled from the wagon.—*Tid Bits*.

It was only a word  
That the silence stirred,  
But an import sad had it—  
A knell of despair  
To a loving pair—  
'Twas her father's one word, GIT!  
—*Boston Budget*.

—**GIT UP AND GIT.**—Used in various ways. For a thing to have no *git up and git* about it is equivalent to saying that it is weak, vain, mean, slow, etc.—To GIT UP AND DUST, *i.e.*, to use the utmost expedition in departing.—See DUST.—To GIT TO.—To obtain leave. A niggerism.

**GITCHE MANITO.**—Among North American Indians the name by which the Great Spirit is known.

**GIVE AWAY.**—A phrase which is noun, adjective, verb, adverb, and interjection all rolled into one. *To give away* is to expose, surrender, or, in slang, to blow upon.—An intensive form is TO GIVE DEAD AWAY; thus, as a result of the Bertillon system of identifying criminals, it is said that a large number of professional thieves have discontinued the use of assumed names, finding it useless, as their measurement, previously taken, invariably *gives them dead away*. Again, when interviewed, an actress descanting on padding, excused herself from mentioning the names

of those whom she knew adopted the practice, on the ground that it would be unkind to *give them away*.

Father—'So the teacher kept you in after school for being late this morning, did he?'

Tommy—'Yes, sir.'

'But I wrote you an excuse.'

'I know it, but I didn't want to GIVE YOU AWAY to the teacher, so I kept it in my pocket.'

'How GIVE ME AWAY?'

'It was full of mis-spelled words.'

—*Texas Siftings*, June 23, 1888.

Exposures of this kind are called GIVE-AWAYS; a mean underhand revelation of secrets or stabbing in the back is known as the GIVE AWAY CUE; and GIVE AWAY! used interjectionally, is akin in meaning.

**GIVEN NAME.**—In America one acquires, at birth, a *given* instead of a Christian *name*, a similar practice obtaining in a slight degree in Scotland. A relic of Puritan dislike to the sacerdotalism of Saints' names.

**GIVE OUT, To.**—To become exhausted.

**GIVY.**—Pliable; easy to work; *i.e.*, ready to "give."

**GIZZARD-SHAD.**—The Carolinian name for the ALEWIFE (*q.v.*).

**G.K. (Masonic).**—Grand King, an abbreviation peculiar to the Royal Arch in the U.S.A. and Irish rite.

**GLADE.**—This purely English word is used in the States in a manner differing somewhat from the orthodox meaning. Primarily, of course, it means a bright open spot in a wood (Old English *glade* = bright, Nor. *gleitte*, a break in clouds, L. *gladius*, a sword), and hence the poetic Americanism MOON-GLADE to signify a track of moonlight on water. In New England *glade* is applied to a tract of smooth ice;

while the same word, which in this case is a curtailment of EVER-GLADE, is in the Southern States used to designate tracks of land covered with water and grass. The history of the word is full of interest, as showing the gradual though constant transitions of meaning to which words are subject by environment.

**GLAKID.**—*Glaikit*, in Lowland Scotch, is given by Jamieson as unsteady; giddy; stupid; and with the last of these meanings *glakid* is used in Pennsylvania.

**GLARE-ICE.**—Smooth ice.

**GLASS (Cant).**—An hour; evidently a contraction of *hour-glass*.—To GLASS.—An old English equivalent of "to glaze," which is still employed in the South and West.

The windows were sashed and GLASSED, and hung with the whitest curtains of cotton with fringes fully a foot deep.—*W. G. Simms, The Last Wager*.

**GLAZED.**—The ground, when rimed by hoar-frost, is in the East said to be *glazed*.

**GLEET.**—A large wooden wedge; a survival of Old English usage; Halliwell giving the same word and meaning.

**GLIBE (Cant).**—A term applied to writing generally, but more particularly to a written agreement.

**GLIMS (Cant).**—Among the fraternity in England, a *glim* is respectively a light, a lamp, or a pair of spectacles. Among their American *confères*, however, the name is especially given to the eyes. The involution of meaning existing between each of these significations is curious; as



also is the slight variation from English usage of GLIM-STICK for candle-stick.—GLIM-FLASHY.—In a passion; savage.—GLIMMER.—The fire.

**GLUTTON** (Cant).—A culprit who, if not exactly ravenous for castigation, is yet able to stand an enormous amount of it. One of the most curious perversions of language to be met with in the vocabulary of thiefdom.

**GNARLER** (Cant).—The generic name among burglars for a watch-dog; obviously from *gnarl*, to murmur, or snarl.

**GNOSTICS** (Cant).—Here Mr. Thief displays his catholicity. It is well known that, no matter what his mother tongue or nationality may be, the man who understands the "patter" is quite at home in all quarters of the globe. There is always a corner in every city he strikes where he can not only make himself understood, but can converse fluently with those with whom he comes in contact. The language of thieves has been drawn from almost every philological source, and, in the use of *gnostic*, to signify a knowing one, a sharp, one who knows what is "fly," we have a case in point. The name is actually the same (from Greek *gnosis*, knowledge) as that applied to an ancient school of philosophy, renowned for its culture and learning. It would be interesting to trace the steps by which the word has descended into the jargon of criminals.

**Go**.—One of the verbs universal of the "great American language."—To go, in a political sense, is sometimes the equivalent of "to vote"; e.g., when a State is

said to go "wet," or "dry" [on local option]; or to go Republican or Democrat.—To GO-AHEAD.—To advance; to go forward. An English expression which, used adjectively, is an undoubted Americanism. The American people, by virtue of their restless, untiring activity, and the facility with which they adapt themselves to new surroundings and conditions, are said to be a *go-ahead* nation—a type of bold and fearless progress. In the great Republic of the West, says one writer, one breathes a *go-ahead* atmosphere, which "tastes good in the nostrils." Mr. Proctor has drawn a most interesting comparison between the Mother Country and her children of the Far West and the still farther South, which I cannot refrain, with all due acknowledgments from quoting entire:—"It is perhaps characteristic of the three great divisions of English-speaking races that our favorite expression in the Old Country is "all right," while the favorite American expression is "*go-ahead*," and in Australasia men say "no fear." This triple set of sayings is better than the French aspiration (rather more than satisfied now perhaps) for *la gloire*, or the general submission of Continental nations to military discipline. We English-speaking races find fault with each other, forgetting our kinship; we laud this, that, and the other distinction, often mere tinselling, of other races; but where now, or in the past of the world, has any race, regarded collectively, made a deeper mark in the history of the world? What other race, or set of races, has ever so definitely acted on the triple principle, or has so thoroughly justified it.—See that all is right, then *go-ahead* and fear not. Despite the savagery shown too often

by British buncombe, by American spread-eagleism, and by Australian assertion of "Australia for the Australians," the English-speaking races have always shown (on the whole) the sense of duty expressed in our British "all right," the aspiration for progress expressed in the American *go-ahead*, and the confident but unboasting courage expressed by the Australasian "no fear."—There are several offshoots of *go-ahead*, e.g., GO-AHEADATIVE and GO-AHEADATIVENESS and GO-AHEADIFYING. *Go-ahead* bids fair, in consequence of this enlarged usage, to become international in character; for it is related that a Parisian candidate for the National Assembly, once addressed the electors in the following terms, *Citoyens, je suis le Représentant du go-ahead*.—To GO BACK ON ONE.—To turn tail; to abandon one's cause; to disappoint expectation; also equivalent to GIVE AWAY in the sense of exposure.

I don't want no better friend than Buck Fanshaw. . . . Take him all round, pard, there never was a bullier man in the mines. . . . No man ever know'd Buck to GO BACK ON a friend.—*Mark Twain's Roughing It*, p. 333.

This phrase is of Western origin.—To GO BETTER (in Poker).—When any player makes a bet, it is the privilege of the next player to the left to raise him; that is, after making good the amount already bet by his adversary, to make a still higher bet. In such a case it is usual to say, "I see you and go (so much) better," naming the extra sum bet.

'I goes you five dollars, this time,' says Jim, posting at the same time the tin.

'I sees dat, and I GOES you ten BETTER,' said Bill; 'you ain't a-goin' to bluff dis child, nohow you can fix it.'

'I sees you again,' said Jim, 'and GOES you forty BETTER; dis Orleans nigger won't stay stumped, dat I tells you, sartin.'—*New York Spirit of the Times*.

—Hence idiomatically to do better than, or to excel others. Thus the *Overland Monthly* speaks of a lady in California who, threatened by her husband, furious at having been betrayed by her, and aiming a rifle at her head, suddenly presented two small revolvers and cried out, "I can play a hand at that game, and *go one better*."—To GO BY.—This sometimes puzzles strangers, for, if an Englishman were asked to *go by* and partake of hospitality, he would certainly be unable to reconcile the seeming contradiction. To *go by* in the South really means to stop; to call at. Its origin, as explained by Pickering, is very simple. In old times, when one was riding a great distance through the country, where there were few roads, and the houses often two or three miles distant therefrom, a planter would naturally ask friends to *go by* [way of] his house and dine or lodge with him.—To GO FOR.—To tackle; to start doing anything. The phrase "he *went for* so and so" is a very frequently heard colloquialism, as also is TO MAKE FOR with the same signification.

He weren't no saint—but at judgment

I'd run my chance with Jim,

'Longside of some pious gentleman

That wouldn't shook hands with him.

He'd seen his duty, a dead-sure thing—

And WENT FOR it thar and then;

And Christ ain't a going to be too hard

On a man that died for men.

—Colonel John Hay, in *Jim Bludsoe of the Prairie Belle*.

Shades of meaning are frequent and varied; thus, it is said in connection with the theological character of the early literature of America that the men of the "Mayflower" were religious men, and those who joined them in the early settlement were men like-minded with themselves. To use this American term they "*went for*" truth,

and left beauty to follow as she could. In yet another sense to *go for* is akin to personal castigation. Costermongers are supposed to *go for* their mothers-in-law; *i.e.*, stamp on, and otherwise ill-use them. This (the meaning not the practice) is of Southern origin. To *go for* also means "to be in favor of," a variant being to GO IN FOR.—GOING.—"The *going* is bad," *i.e.*, the travelling.—GOING IN. (In Poker.)—Making good the ante of the age and the straddles (if any) for the privilege of drawing cards and playing for the pool.—TO GO IT ALONE.—In euchre where a player elects to play independent of his partner. Scores are thereby doubled, whether successful or the reverse. Idiomatically the phrase to *go it alone* is used of any undertaking in which a man engages without outside assistance.—TO GO IT BALD-HEADED.—See BALDHEADED.—TO GO IT BLIND.—To run all risks; to engage in an undertaking without forethought—an expression derived from poker.—See BLIND.—TO GO IT STRONG.—A phrase applied to vigorous action, energetic advocacy, free living, indeed anything accentuated in character. Mark Twain's Heathen Chinese, who, with his packs of cards, aces, and bowers, was thought to be "coming it strong," will at once occur to mind.—TO GO ONE'S DEATH.—Equivalent to "to lay one's life."—TO GO ONE'S PILE.—To expend one's fortune to the last penny; and idiomatically to throw one's heart and soul into an undertaking. This expression is an allusion to the "pile" [of money] obtained in mining or trade, which, in many cases when made was, especially during the gold fever, dissipated in riotous living. It was frequently "lightly come; lightly go."—See

PILE.—GO OFF.—The commencement; beginning.

He is a sailor by trade, and we now have him out in the country learning the difference between a coyote and a Hubbard squash. He may make a few blunders on the GO-OFF, as he sticks to it that potatoes ought to grow on trees, and that wheat grows wrong end to, but he is a hummer, and will get there by and by. Remember, this department does not increase the subscription price at all. We are simply trying to publish a paper worth 100 dollars per year for 2 dollars.—*Detroit Free Press*, Oct. 13, 1888.

—TO GO THROUGH.—A phrase which, when applied to a man, seems to be equivalent to "turning him inside out," either by robbing him of all he possesses, holding him up to ridicule, or otherwise making it generally unpleasant for him.

He was garrotted, and the two robbers WENT THROUGH him before the police could reach the spot.—*Baltimore Sun*, 1888.

It was a grand sight to see Farnsworth *go through* him; he did not leave him a single leg to stand upon.—*Baltimore Sun*, 1888.

—TO GO UNDER.—To die; the visible disposal of the body furnishing a simile for the process of death. Compare with the German *untergehen*, to perish.

'It's his darter's claim, boys!'  
Then like an inspiration their leader said:  
'Men, let's make it so.' And, standing with hats off, they one and all solemnly vowed to see that the mine should be worked solely for the benefit of the girl whether Jim lived or had GONE UNDER.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, March, 1888.

Also to fail in business; to sink in the Maelstrom of financial difficulty.—TO GO UP.—Like TO GO UNDER; this is a simile for death, and is based very much on the same lines. When the victim of lynch law is enquired after, the questioner will simply be told that he has "*gone up*," *i.e.*, hanged.—GO TO GRASS! Be off!—GO WEST, YOUNG MAN!—At first meaning exactly what it says, the expression



at length became a mere catchphrase, and was used in season and out of season. The West naturally offers far more opportunities for advancement in life than the more thickly populated Eastern States. *Go West, young man!* at last became synonymous with "quit!" It was a favorite expression of Horace Greely.

**GOAD** (Cant).—A PETER FUNK (*q.v.*).

**GOAT**.—The PRONG HORN ANTELOPE (*q.v.*) is so-called by the fur traders.

**GOATEE**.—A tuft of hair worn on the chin, similar to a goats'-beard,—hence its name,—the rest of the chin being clean shaved. A fashion of wearing the beard, once very common, but now rarely seen.

April 19.—This morning struck into the region of full GOATEES—sometimes accompanied by a mustache, but only occasionally. It was odd to come upon this thick crop of an obsolete and uncomely fashion; it was like running suddenly across a forgotten acquaintance whom you had supposed dead for a generation.—*Mark Twain's Life on the Mississippi*, p. 213.

**GOATER**.—A thief's term for dress.

**GOBSTICKS** (Cant).—Under this curious name silver forks and spoons are known. "Gob" in English slang signifies the mouth.—A very similar derivative is *gobstrings* for a bridle.

**GO-CART**.—A hand-cart.

**GODFATHERS** (Cant).—A flash name for "gentlemen of the jury," because in giving their verdict they name the degree of crime, first, second, third, etc., with which the accused is charged.—*See* MURDER IN FIRST DEGREE.

**GO-DOWN**.—Of squatter origin. A *go-down* is a cutting in the hilly bank of a stream for enabling animals to cross it or to get to the water.

**GOLDAM**.—BY GOLDAM!—A Yankee form of swearing, as also are

**GOLDARNED** and **GOLDASTED**.

'Bill, are you hurt?'

'Yes, by gum; I've broke my GOLDARNED neck.'—*American Humorist*, 1888.

Finally Deacon Spalding broke out with: 'That GOLDASTED St. Louis mugwump has made suckers of us again with his cracks about coming into the league. I move we adjourn.'—*Cincinnati Enquirer*, 1888.

**GOLDEN CIRCLE**.—KNIGHTS OF THE GOLDEN CIRCLE.—An organization formed among COPPERHEADS (*q.v.*) at the North during the Civil War, to aid in the rescue of Confederate prisoners held by the United States. Also one of the alleged names of the KU-KLUX-KLAN.

**GOLDEN CITY**.—San Francisco, otherwise 'Frisco. Gold having been found in California in large quantities, the sobriquet is not, as sometimes is the case, altogether inappropriate.

**GOLDEN EYE** (*Bucephala americana*).—A wild grey duck, which is more popularly known as the WHISTLER or WHISTLE-WING.

**GOLDEN STATE**.—California, from the large quantities of precious metal which have been found within its borders.

**GOLDURN IT!**—A euphemistic oath.

**GOLLATION**.—*See* GOLLY.

**GOLLY**.—BY GOLLY!—A common colloquial negroism, being a sub-

stitute for an oath. Of these half-veiled blasphemies there seems to be no end; indeed, the penal laws of the Puritans, which made swearing an offence against the State, certainly caused men successfully to exercise considerable ingenuity in order to evade them; and the seed-time of repression only resulted in a bountiful harvest of bastard profanity.—*See DADBINGED.*—*GOLLATION.*—A word which, derived from *golly*, literally runs riot in its exuberant verbosity—"By *gollation*!" "*O gollation*!" "*gollation* large," "*gollation* mean," etc., etc., etc.

**GOMBO or GUMBO** (*Hibiscus esculentus*).—

The pod of this plant, which, in the North, is called *OKRA*, is, in the South, called *gombo*. These pods also form one of the chief ingredients for a soup of the same name.

**GONE BEAVER, GONE COON, GONE GANDER, GONE GOOSE, GONER, and GONEY.**—All variants for what, in England, would be called "a gone case,"—a man or event past hoping for.

Before I could even get under cover the old mother bear charged right by me with open mouth, fairly taking my breath and strength all away at my narrow escape. Fortunately she did not see me, or else I would have been a *GONER*.—*Cincinnati Enquirer*, 1888.

I will make that *GONEY* a caution to sinners I know. He has fired into the wrong flock this time. I'll teach him not to do it again.—*Sam Stick's Human Nature*, p. 107.

**GOOBERS** (*Arachnis hypogæa*).—Other-wise *PEA NUTS* or *EARTH NUTS*, the trade in which is considerable. An amusing story is told of a witness who was being examined in an important case, and whose testimony was conclusive. So the lawyer for the other side undertook to make him an object for ridicule. "You are a business man, I believe?"

"Yes, sir." "What is your business?" "I deal in pea nuts." The lawyer smiled knowingly at the jury. "A pea nut vendor, eh! How many pints did you sell last month?" "I hardly know. A million, perhaps." "What?" "I handle about half a million bushels a year. I am a wholesale dealer." The lawyer sat down. He had forgotten that the pea nut crop is the source of riches to many Southern farmers, and that the annual trade in the humble *goober* foots up 10,000,000 dols.!—*GOOBER GRABBER.*—A Georgian is thus known in the Southern States. The name comes from the *GOOBER* or pea nut, which is very common in the State of Georgia.

**GOOD.**—To *FEEL GOOD*, *i.e.*, jolly, pleasant, etc., is a distinctively American manner of speech, which at times is apt to sound rather odd to English ears. Mr. Proctor relates how a proposition was once invitingly made to a friend of his, which, to say the least, involved no virtuous self-abnegation, and he was urged to accept it by the plea that "it would make him feel *good*."

"I think the beer has something to do with making men generous." "Will you explain how?" "The saloons are going Saturday afternoon, and the men feel pretty good before they come abroad. They don't begrudge a little money to the band then."—*Texas Siftings*, September 15, 1888.

**GOODS.**—(1) This term is applied to liquid merchandize in just the same way that English people apply it in the case of "dry goods."

Strange to relate, saloon supplies are getting short, and if the embargo continues, plain whiskey and other wet goods will advance in price.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, March 14, 1888.

— (2) Among the *MOLLY MAGUIRES* (*q.v.*), the signs and pass-words constituted the *goods*

of the society. The same usage applies in the case of other secret organizations.

Without this action it would be impossible for the division to secure the goods for the current quarter; and Mike eloquently urged that it was always desirable to keep the body in fair standing with the State and National officials.—*Pinkerton's Molly Maguires and Detectives*.

**GOOD-WOOLED** (Cant).—A man whose courage can be depended upon never to fail him is said to be *good-wooled*; from which it would appear that light-fingered gentry can appreciate a good simile.

**GOODY BREAD**.—Bread in which pieces of roast rind of pork have been baked. A negro delicacy.

**GOOK**.—(Cant).—A low class prostitute.

**GOOSE**.—TO BE SOUND ON THE GOOSE was, during the exciting times immediately prior to the Civil War, a synonym for soundness on the pro-slavery question. It is now used politically of a man who is staunch upon party questions, whatever these at the moment may be; to be orthodox in one's political creed.

Northern religion works w'al North, but its ez suft ez spruce, compar'd to our'n for keep-in' sound, sez she, UPON THE GOOSE.—*Big-low Papers*, II.

One of the boys, I reckon? ALL RIGHT ON THE GOOSE, eh? No highfaluten airs here, you know.—*Gladstone, Englishman in Kansas*, p. 43.

—EVERYTHING IS LOVELY AND THE GOOSE HANGS HIGH.—*See* EVERYTHING, etc.

**GOOSEBERRY**.—(Cant).—A woman.  
—GOOSING-SLUM, a brothel.  
GOOSEBERRY-LAYS, stealing clothes that have been hung out to dry.

**GOOSE FISH**.—*See* DEVIL FISH.

**G O P**.—Grand Old Party; a sobriquet of the Republicans. Applied contemptuously by the Democrats, and as a tribute of praise by its own members. The expression is very similar to G. O. M. in England for Mr. Gladstone; indeed it is almost certain that G. O. P. was suggested by the latter.

Where was the Republican Party born? There are persons in Kane County, Illinois, who claim that the Party was born there in 1854, and some Bloomington people assert that their city was the birth-place of the G.O.P. This important question ought to be settled before all the people who assisted at the accouchement have passed away.—*Chicago Times*, 1888.

**GOPHER**.—Seemingly a generic name for any animal of mining or burrowing habits. Besides those mentioned in the following quotation, the term is applied in the Middle States to a species of mole, and in the South to a land turtle.

Wherever sand streams are covered with grass, the surface is undermined by a beautiful little animal called the GOPHER (on the high plains a small striped squirrel; on the Southern plains, a pouched rat). This animal feeds on the roots of the grass, on seeds, etc., which he stores in cavities, dug out of the soft sand. His labors not only render travel more difficult, but exceedingly dangerous, especially to a rapidly-moving horse. It is this animal that gives the danger to buffalo-hunting.—*Richard Irvine Dodge's Plains of the Great West*.

**GOREE** (Cant).—Gold dust.

**GOSH**.—*See* BEGOSH.

**GOSHDANG**.—By GOSHDANG !—A form of oath.

**GOSPEL-SHARP**.—A Western term for a clergyman.

'I've got it now, so's you can savvy,' he said. 'What we want is a GOSPEL-SHARP. See?'



'A what?'

'GOSPEL-SHARP—parson.'

'Oh! Why did you not say so before? I am a clergyman—a parson.'—*Mark Twain's The Innocents at Home*, p. 19.

**GOSSAMER.**—In the Eastern States a waterproof cloak. In the West the same article of attire is called a RAIN CLOAK.

**GOT 'EM BAD.**—An emphatic superlative. When anything is being thoroughly done, if a politician is very earnest and enthusiastic in the advocacy of his views, or if a sick person is very ill, the saying goes that "he's got 'em bad."

**GOTHAM.**—New York, the inhabitants of that city being nicknamed GOTHAMITES. First used of New York by Washington Irving. The story of the wise men of *Gotham* is well-known, and the application of the term to the American metropolis was in sarcastic allusion to self-assumed superiority.

**GOTTEN.**—This old form of the past participle of the verb "to get" is colloquial everywhere, more so than the modern "got."

She has now GOTTEN past the use of her crib, and the wicker-work basket cradle.—*Denver Republican*, April 15, 1888.

Last night detectives arrested Martha Bonman, who at once acknowledged her guilt. The girl said she had GOTTEN into the pantry by means of a duplicate key.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, Feb. 4, 1888.

The decorations and illuminations were GOTTEN up by Mr. J. H. Dressing, plumber, of 212, Chestnut-street, and were of an unusually attractive character.—*New York Weekly*.

**GOVERNOR'S STIFF** (Cant).—A pardon.

**GRAB GAME.**—Used colloquially for any form of stealing; and, therefore, as much English as Ameri-

can. What, however, is specifically known as the *grab game* is "played" somewhat as follows, though, of course, local circumstances are the cause of variation. Sharpers who practice this mode of swindling, start by betting amongst themselves (anything is good enough for the purpose); induce bystanders to join in, whereupon the stakes are deposited. One of the confederates then purposely causes a dispute, upon which another of the gang *grabs* the stakes, and decamps with them.

**GRADE, To.**—(1) On Western ranches, *to grade*, in connection with cattle, is to improve them by mixing the breeds—(2) *To grade* is also colloquially common in America in the sense in which in England it is only used technically by surveyors, *i.e.*, to change the level of a road.

**GRAFT, To.**—(1) To repair boots by soleing and heeling.—(2) (Cant). To work, but the work in this case is stealing, *i.e.*, picking pockets. GRAFTING is also used in the sense of helping another to steal.

**GRAHAM BREAD.**—Whole meal bread. So named from Dr. Silvester Graham, who introduced it.

**GRAIN.**—(1) In the sense of a little, this word is curiously misapplied to distance; and where English people would say "move a little," Americans frequently ask one "to move a grain."—(2) What we call corn is, in the States, universally termed *grain*, *i.e.*, wheat, rye, oats, barley, etc. By corn is always understood INDIAN CORN OR MAIZE.

**GRAMA, or GRAMMA GRASS** (*Chondrosium*).—A Spanish name for a fine grass which, in Texas, grows to the height of two, and under very good conditions, of three feet. Dodge considers that the **BUFFALO GRASS** (*q.v.*) of the high plains, and *gramma grass*, though entirely different in growth and appearance, are really identical. This he discovered accidentally. At Fort Dodge he had a small piece of ground covered with sods of **BUFFALO GRASS** taken from the high prairie. It was watered daily, and otherwise well cared for. To his great astonishment it appeared to change its whole nature, grew tall and rank, and in due time developed the seed heads of the true *gramma grass*. The **BUFFALO GRASS** is uninviting to the eye, being so very short that an inexperienced man in search of pasture for animals, would pass it without consideration. It makes up in thickness what it lacks in length, and horses and cattle not only eat it greedily, but fill themselves much quicker than would seem possible. The Arkansas Valley at Fort Lyon, is covered with tall, fine-looking grass, which the large herds of domestic cattle will scarcely touch, preferring to go eight or ten miles away from the river, to feed upon the **BUFFALO GRASS** of the high plain. Another curious fact in this connection is, that the cattle under such circumstances return to the river for water only on alternate days.

**GRANDACIOUS: GRANDIFEROUS.**—Ab-surd factitious superlatives of "grand."

**GRANDMOTHER.**—To SHOOT ONE'S GRANDMOTHER is a New Englander's way of saying that he has dis-

covered a "mare's nest." It is, therefore, synonymous with the equally vulgar English expression, "go teach your grannie how to suck eggs." Man, as an animal that must shoot something, to judge from the simile, is in a high state of development across the Atlantic.

**GRANGERS.**—"The Patrons of Husbandry." A secret society, nominally non-political, but really taking a hand in politics when occasion offers to favor agricultural interests. It is numerically strong, and extends throughout the United States.

**GRANITE STATE.**—The State of New Hampshire. From the same cause which might lead an Englishman to apply the same title to Aberdeenshire, *i.e.*, from the immense quantities of granite found there.

**GRAPE-VINE.**—See **BLUE GRASS.**—**GRAPE-VINE TELEGRAPH.**—During the Civil War exciting news of battles not fought and victories not won were said to be received 'by *grape-vine telegraph*.

**GRASS.**—To HUNT GRASS, to decamp. Equivalent also colloquially to the English football slang "to hunt leather."

You're most too many for me, you know. When you get in with your left I HUNT GRASS every time.—*Mark Twain's The Innocents at Home*, p. 21.

**GRASS CATTLE.**—A plainsman's term for cattle fed on *grass*. In England we also speak of "grass lamb."

**GRASSET.**—See **CHEWINK**.

**GRAVEL, To.**—A Western equivalent of "to go against the grain"; "to be unwilling"; Shakspeare uses it in the sense of a quandary in "As you like it."

By long habit, pilots came to put all their wishes in the form of commands. It GRAVELS me, to this day, to put my will in the weak shape of a request, instead of launching it in the crisp language of an order.—*Mark Twain's Mississippi Pilot.*

**GRAVEN IMAGE.**—HUNGRY AS A GRAVEN IMAGE is a New England metaphor, the meaning of which is obvious, but not so its derivation.

**GRAVESTONE.**—COLD AS THE NORTH SIDE OF A JENOOARY GRAVESTONE BY STARLIGHT.—A New England simile, signifying extremity.

**GRAVEYARD ISSUES.**—A bold and gruesome metaphor to describe what can only be carried by extreme measures, and to obtain which one would have to fight to the death.

Sherman . . . is not up to the demands of the period. His campaign would be one of GRAVEYARD ISSUES. The war, the South and tissue ballots are dead.—*New York World*, February 14, 1888.

**GRAY.**—HE WORE THE GRAY, *i.e.*, served in the Confederate armies during the Civil War. *Gray* was the color of the uniform.

One of our most popular preachers tells a rich one of some of the boys who WORE THE GRAY.—*Missouri Republican*, March 3, 1888.

A man who is at the head of one of the big houses on Wabash Avenue, and who used to WEAR THE GRAY when there was thunder in Shenandoah valley, told me this story yesterday, etc., etc.—*Chicago Mail*, 1888.

**GRAYSICK.**—A state of the sea when it has assumed a glassy appearance. The "doldrums" would thus

be called a *grayslick*. Peculiar to the Maine coast.

**GREASED LIGHTNING.**—An express train.

**GREASERS.**—The lower class of Mexicans are so called by Western men from their greasy appearance. The term originated during the Mexican War.

To avenge the murder of one of their number, the cowboys gathered from the country round about, and fairly stormed the GREASER—that is, Mexican—village where the murder had been committed, killing four of the inhabitants.—*Century Magazine*, October, 1888.

**GREASE-WOOD.**—See CHIMISAL.

**GREAT.**—An adjective more frequently wrested from its orthodox meaning in America than in England. As regards its signification, circumstances alter cases, or rather applications. Thus a *great* field is not necessarily one of large extent, but simply one in which the land is of good quality; a *great* cow, one of good breed and points. A glimmering of this mis-application of the word is seen in the phrase, equally common on both sides the Atlantic, "he is *great* on so-and-so," *e.g.*, on books; *i.e.*, he can be considered an authority. The usage is a survival of Elizabethan English, and in II. Kings iv. 8, we read that Elisha passed to Shunem, where was a *great* woman.

**GREATLE.**—A "great while," of which it is evidently a corruption.

**GREAT PLENTY.**—A pleonastic expression for enough; sufficiency; abundance. The English boys' "lots."



**GREAT SCOTT!**—A common exclamation of surprise.

Brown—'Hello, Smith! Heard about Jones' wife catching him kissing another woman in a dark alley?' Smith—'GREAT SCOTT! You don't say so. What did she do?' Brown—'Sued him for alley-money.'—*New York Mercury*, 1888.

**GREAT SPIRIT.**—The Indian name for God.

**GREAT WEST.**—The Western States of America, from their enormous extent. The term is well applied.

**GREED (Cant).**—A flash phrase for money.

**GREENBACK.**—The term was at first applied to the issues of United States notes, which bore on the reverse side a device printed in green ink to prevent counterfeiting by photography. The GREENBACK LABOR PARTY is one which advocates a currency based in general terms upon the National Credit and authority without the security of a specie reserve. Greenbacks are now issued of the value of one dol., two dols., five dols., ten dols., twenty dols., one hundred dols., and higher amounts. Previous to 1878 *greenbacks* for smaller amounts down to ten cents were current. —GREENBACKERS were those who, previous to the resumption of specie payment for the smaller amount just named, opposed the change.

**GREEN-GOODS.** — Counterfeit greenbacks, and those who utter spurious money of this kind, are called GREEN-GOODSMEN. The ways and methods of conducting their nefarious business resemble those adopted by such craftsmen elsewhere.

Driscoll was hung, but the GREEN-GOODSMAN escaped, for the only proof against him was that he sold a quantity of paper cut in the shape of bills and done up in packages of that size. True, he got four hundred dols. for what was only worth three cents a pound, but any man had a right to set his own price on his goods.—*Troy Daily Times*, February 3, 1888.

If recent revelations are to be credited a regular trade in *green-goods* is carried on. Circulars are issued, quotations given, and packages of counterfeit bills sent through the post. Sometimes, however, the *green-goods* are not even genuine of their kind. Only recently a greenhorn wishing to make haste to be rich, and not over particular as to the means of acquiring his wealth, travelled three hundred miles to Troy, to buy four thousand dols. worth of *green-goods*, for which he only paid four hundred dols. Of course, the *green-goods* should have been counterfeit money, but unfortunately they only proved to be packages of paper cut into the shape of bank notes. And so the verdant would-be millionaire found himself the victim of the old fraud, which has been exposed year after year. Generally the loss is, for very shame's sake, kept secret, and thus swindlers of this type make money rapidly.

**GREEN GOODS GROCER.**—*Anglicé*, a greengrocer.

Get a good melon, and if you can't tell for yourself by that intuition which is the best guide in such matters, then trust to your GREEN GOODS GROCER'S judgment.—*Boston Transcript*, 1888.

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CITY.** — Montpelier, the capital of Vermont, taking its title from the popular name of that State, the GREEN MOUNTAIN STATE—French *Vert Mont*.

**GREEN RIVER.**—To send a man up *Green River* is, in the expressive parlance of the South-west, to kill him. The phrase had its origin in a once famous factory on *Green River*, where a superior kind of large knife was made, very popular among hunters and trappers. On the blade the words "*Green River Works*" were engraved, and hence mountaineers, using the knife to despatch an adversary, literally sent his blood up *Green River*.

**GREEN SAUCE.**—Vegetables. This form is found in Gayton, Beaumont and Fletcher, and elsewhere.

**GRIDIRON.**—A nickname for the "Stars and Stripes," the United States' flag; the British sailor's slang term for the same is GRIDIRON AND DOUGHBOYS.

**GRIFFE**, also **GRIFFIN**, is among the descendants of the French settlers in Louisiana applied to mulattoes, more especially to women. The term seems pretty generally given to anything that is half-and-half. The fabulous griffin is represented as half eagle and half lion; and a cadet, half Indian and half English, is so called. "Griffins" in England is applied to the residue of a contract feast taken away by the contractor, half the buyer's and half the seller's.

**GRIG, TO.**—To vex; to irritate. *To grig* means to nip or pinch in provincial English.

**GRIM** (Cant).—A grim enough name, indeed, for a skeleton, Death itself being known under the name of OLD GRIM. A corpse is, in a similarly graphic fashion, described as a STIFF.

**GRIP OR GRIPSACK.**—A handbag or satchel.

He packed his GRIP and joyfully set out  
One day, to buy some green goods in the city;

He's back again, two hundred dollars out,  
And no one has for him a spark of pity.  
—*Boston Courier*.

—(Cant.)—"The leather was a *grip*," i.e., the pocket-book was easy to get or steal.

When I saw the leather was a GRIP . . . I kept close to her, and when she got out of the cars, at a way place, I said, 'Mam, have you lost anything?' and she tumbled her leather was off.—*Mark Twain's Life on the Mississippi*, p. 459.

**GRIPE-FIST** (Cant).—A miser or broker; evidently a corruption of GRIP-FIST, i.e., a hand that squeezes over-much.

**GRIST.**—A large number or quantity. Thus, a lecture-hall would, if filled to its utmost capacity, be said to contain a whole *grist* of people.

**GRIT.**—Because this word is used in exactly the same manner in America as in England, Bartlett gives it as an Americanism. In his knowledge of English usage, he is throughout excessively weak.

**GRIZZLY.**—Short for *grizzly*-bear. *Grizzly* meat = bear's flesh.

**GROANERS** (Cant).—Those in the thieving fraternity who carry out their depredations against society at funerals and other church gatherings.

**GROCERY.**—Though sometimes applied to a grocery store, the term is too often, in the South-west especially, only another name for a drinking saloon, and "groceries" then take the form of ardent spirits.

**GROGGERY.**—Literally, a place where grog is sold. A low drinking saloon; also corrupted into DOGGERY.

**GROGHAM** (Cant).—A horse. The derivation of this term is lost in mystery, unless it be from "groggy" as applied to horses that are overworked and unsteady. Even here, however, it is difficult to understand why thieves should have applied the term to all horses, though it is quite possible, by a process of inversion, that the man and not the horse is the groggy one, and that the twisted vision consequent on imbibing too much liquor causes him to see all horses unsteady in their gait, he, of course, good soul, being the only one able to "walk the chalk." This, however, is admittedly a trifle far-fetched.

**GROPER** (I) (*Serranus erythrogaster*).—A fish covered with olive colored irregular spots, and with gills and gullet of bright red; found in the waters of Florida.—(2) (Cant). A blind man; a term the meaning of which is obvious.

**GROUND.**—In Virginia always used instead of "land," e.g., tobacco grounds, etc.—To RUN INTO THE GROUND, i.e., to overdo a thing; to go to excess. From running a fox or other game to earth.—To WIPE UP THE GROUND WITH ONE is a ruffian's way of saying he will knock a person down.

The Scroggin boy was as tough as a dogwood knot; he was a fighter from way back; he would give that frail-looking city boy, that dudsish grandson of mine, a terrific trouncing. He'd WIPE UP THE GROUND WITH HIM; he'd walk all over him.—*Detroit Free Press*, August, 1888.

—GROUND BRIDGE.—When logs are laid in the water at the bottom

of a ford, the improved crossing so obtained is called a *ground-bridge*. This is often done in the South.

—GROUND CHERRY.—Otherwise the WINTER CHERRY (*g.v.*). It grows wild, but the fruit is edible.

—GROUND HOG (*Arctomys monax*).

—Folk-lore in the States centres round the *ground hog*, the Southern name for the woodchuck of the North. Looked upon with suspicion by farmers, on account of its destructiveness to grass and growing crops, this little marmot-like animal, like others of its species, lies hidden in its burrow dormant during the winter. Tradition has it that on February 2nd of each year (Candlemas Day), the *ground hog* comes from its subterranean abode for a breath of fresh air, and if, while upon his stroll, he sees his shadow, he immediately returns to his nest, not to appear again for six weeks, the supposition being that cold weather may be expected. If he does not see his shadow, he is supposed to remain out for the entire season, the theory being that there will be no more cold weather until the next winter shall have set in. The negroes of the South are keen hunters of the poor creature, who, in winter, a mere ball of fur, during the summer grows into a perfect ball of fat, and is considered a great luxury at the "quarters." The latter part of woodchuck, i.e., "chuck," is used as *hog* is in *ground hog*, for pigs are almost universally summoned to the feeding-trough by the word "chuck! chuck!" repeated several times, evidently the descendant of the Old English "sug! sug!" which Grose says is a word used in Norfolk to "call pigs to eat their wash."—

GROUND NUT.—See EARTH NUT and PEA NUT. It is also called the GROUND PEA.—GROUND PLUM (*Astragalus caryocarpus*).—So called



from its plum-shaped pod.—**GROUND SLUICING**.—The process, amongst miners, of washing down the sides of banks by means of water. A substitute for shovelling.

—**GROUND SQUIRREL** (*Spermophilus tridecemlineatus*).—A name erroneously given to the striped prairie squirrel, which is also known as the **GOPHER**. The *ground squirrel* is really the **CHIPMUNK** (*q.v.*).—**GROUND SWEAT** (Cant).—A grave.

**GROUTY**.—A *grouty* woman is, in the Northern States, a cross, ill-natured one.

**GRUBBY** also **GRUBLEY** and **GRUMPY**.—Massachusetts names for the **TOAD FISH** (*q.v.*).

**GRUNTER**.—(1) The **BANDED DRUM** (*q.v.*).—(2) (Cant).—A country constable.

**G. T. T.**.—Gone to Texas. Moon-shining gentry in the States used to leave on the doors of their abandoned dwellings the legend *G.T.T.*, as a cold consolation for inquiring creditors.

**GUAVA**.—A West Indian fruit, much esteemed for dessert and preserving purposes. **GUAVA JELLY** is well known in England as a West Indian preserve.

**GUBERNATORIAL**.—Relating to Government, *e.g.*, the *Gubernatorial* mansion, *i.e.*, Government House—an uncouth, outlandish, and pedantic piece of word-making. Used also in the States for pertaining to the powers of the "Governor of a State." Governmental, an adjective employed in England in a similar sense, is never used in America.

I was not equal to the requirements of a **GUBERNATORIAL** campaign in the State of New York, and so I sent in my withdrawal from the candidacy.—*Mark Twain's* *Screamers*.

**GUESS**.—This word has been, perhaps, more than any other, the subject of animated discussion. English purists have unceasingly twitted Americans upon its use, who have retaliated by endeavouring to show its orthodoxy. In this they have without doubt succeeded; for, in point of fact, *guess* has been used in England in every sense in which it is used in America, where, however, special applications have lived on while they have died out in the Mother Country; only on this ground, therefore, can it be counted an Americanism. Shakespeare, Milton, Selden, and Locke all use it. Perhaps the only difference between the English and the American use of the word is, that the former denotes a fair, candid *guess*, while the Yankee who *guesses* is apt to be quite sure of what he professes to doubt. As he only "calculates" when he has already solved his problem, so he also *guesses* when he has made sure of his fact. "I *guess* I do," is with him an expression of confident certainty. He is, however, quite as prone to go to the other extreme, and to use the word without any other meaning than mere "thinking," as when he says: "I *guess* he is well," or, "I *guess* I won't go to-day."

'What is your age?' asked Colonel James (that dreadful question to a lady).

'I *GUESS* I am about forty.'

'You *GUESS*? Don't you know?'

'Well, forty next June.'

—*New York Herald*, March 27th, 1888.

She walked into the dry goods store

With stately step and proud,

She turn'd the frills and laces o'er,

And pushed aside the crowd.

She asked to see some rich brocade,

Mohairs and grenadines,

She looked at silk of every shade—  
 And then at velveteens.  
 She sampled jackets blue and red,  
 She tried on nine or ten,  
 And then she toss'd her head, and said  
 She guess'd she'd call again.  
 —*Texas Siftings*, June 23rd, 1888.

**GUFF.**—Nonsense; balderdash. "Don't tell me such guff."

**GUINEA CORN** (*Holcus sorghum*).—The millet of the Egyptians.

**GUINEA GRASS** (*Panicum maximum*).—A West Indian grass, largely used for fodder, and only of late years introduced into the States.

**GUINEA KEET.**—The guinea-fowl. Also KEET; so called from its peculiar cry.

**GUINEA NEGRO.**—A full-blooded negro.

'Tain't quite hendy to pass off one o' your six-foot GUINEAS,  
 An' git your halves an' quarters back in gals and pickaninnies.

—*Biglow Papers*, II.

**GULCH.**—A ravine. This Old English word is one which, having once fallen into disuse, has again made its way into favor.—**GULCH MINING**, mining in *gulches*. The method adopted is akin to that of **PLACER MINING** (*q.v.*).

**GULF CITY.**—New Orleans.

**GULF STATES.**—The States bordering on the Gulf of Mexico. These are Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas.

**GULLY, To.**—From "gully," a hollow channel. *To gully*, to wear a hollow channel in the earth.

**GULLY PLUM.**—A Barbadian name for the fruit of the *Spondia lutea*.

**GUM.**—(1) A name given to various trees throughout the Union. The **BLACK-GUM** of the North and **SOUR-GUM** of the South, both belong to the Nyassa species. The **SWEET-GUM** is *Liquidambar styraciflua*. The last-named is a favorite resort of the racoon, and has furnished many figures of speech.—(2) India-rubber; *gums* being india-rubber shoes or goloshes. Every one has heard the story, told with many variations, and which, if not true, ought to be, of the clergyman who, having just arrived and taken possession of a little country parish, had been invited to take charge of the funeral of a prominent resident. As he knew nothing about the career and accomplishments of the deceased, he was to be assisted by a farmer of the neighborhood who was something of an exhorter. The relatives expected that the services would not begin until Mr. J., the farmer exhorter, had arrived. He was long in coming for some reason, and the clergyman began to grow weary. He called one of the family, and asked him if he knew where Mr. J. was. "He's come now," said this person. "Where is he?" asked the clergyman. "Downstairs," came the response, "wiping his *gums* on the door-mat." The thought of the reverend agriculturist "wiping him *gums* on the door-mat" filled the young clergyman first with horror, and then with almost uncontrollable amusement. It did not occur to him at first that *gums* in that part of the country meant india-rubber overshoes. This confusion of language has also led to *gum* trees being called rubber trees.—(3) A bee-hive; also called **BEE-GUM**.—*See* **BEE-GUMS**.—**GUM-GAME.**—"You can't come the *gum-game* over me," a trick or dodge. The simile is drawn from the preference shown by opossums

and racoons for *gum* trees as places of refuge when hotly pursued. Up there, in his leafy retreat, the animal is well hid from dog and hunter alike, and frequently defies all their efforts. This is what the Western man calls "coming the *gum-game*," and he applies the phrase with great shrewdness and force to any case in daily life in which he thinks he sees a desire to over-reach him by concealment.

You can't come that *GUM-GAME* over me any more [says a Kansas man to a squatter, whose farm he wished to purchase, when the latter claims to have some fictitious title], I've been to the land-office, and know all about the place.—*Kansas City Advertiser*.

The word is not unknown to the Eastern States, for J. R. Lowell uses it in the same sense: "You can't *gum* me, I tell ye now, and so you needn't try."—*Biglow Papers*, I. —*GUMBO*.—*See GOMBO*.—*GUM-LOG*.—A log of a gum-tree. —*GUMMO LIMBER* (*Bursea gummifera*).—A large Florida gum-tree. —*SUCKING GUM* or *CHEWING GUM*.—A preparation of the *SWEET GUM*, used for chewing purposes. This practice is one of the most marked idiosyncracies of the great American people.

#### **GUMBO FRENCH, OR CREOLE FRENCH.**—

A dialect or patois, consisting in the main of strangely disguised and disfigured French words, with an admixture of English and a few genuine African terms. A stanza of a popular *coonjai* (congé) or minuet, well known to Louisiana planters, runs as follows:—

Mo déjà roulé tout la côte,  
Pancor (pas encore) ouar (voir) pareil belle  
Layote,  
Mo roulé tout la côte.  
Mo roulé tout la colonie,  
Mo pamor ouar griffonne là,  
Qua mo goût comme la belle Layotte.

**GUMMER.**—To *GUM* is to punch out the teeth of a saw, the machine used being called a *gummer*.

**GUMMEY** (Cant).—A flash term for medicine.

**GUMMY**!—A New England exclamation of surprise.

**GUMPTIOUS.**—A derivative from "gumption," on the same model as *bumptious*. A *gumptions* fellow is one who has understanding and discernment.

**GUN.**—In the West a revolver is generally called a gun.—To *GO GUNNING* is to go out shooting. This form of *gunning* for "shooting" occurs in Drayton.

The Supreme Court has decided that there is no close season for editors. Persons who wish to *GO GUNNING* for journalists at any time of the year have only to induce their game to make some uncomplimentary remarks about them in print, and in effect a license to shoot is issued.—*San Francisco News Letter*, 1888.

—To *GUN A STOCK*, is, in Wall-street phrase, to use every art to produce a "break," when it is known that a certain house is heavily supplied, and would be unable to resist an attack. —*To GUN* (Cant).—To watch; to look for. —*GUNNED*, examined. —*GUN-SHOP*.—A gun-smith's shop.

**GUNBOATS.**—A term used, during the Civil War, for the heavy, clumsy footgear served out to the men.

**GUNTER, ACCORDING TO.**—A variant of the English "According to Cocker." Both Gunter and Cocker were distinguished mathematicians; the former, however, being a Puritan, has naturally taken the lead in



the United States in preference to the latter. In Canada, also, the phrase, *according to Gunter*, holds its own almost exclusively. The expression, which was English before it became naturalized in America, signifies carefully and correctly done.

**GURRY.**—A fisherman's term for the slime and blood resulting from handling and curing fish.

**GUSH.**—A large quantity; abundance; *e.g.*, a *gush* of cattle, fruit, etc.

**GUTTER** (Cant).—A highly descriptive term for porter. In English slang, "gutter-lane" is the throat.

**GUTTERSNIPE.**—A recent Wall Street name for "outside brokers."

**GUTS.** — NOT FIT TO CARRY GUTS TO A BEAR. — An opprobrious epithet implying unequalled worthlessness.

**GUY** (Cant).—A dark lantern.





**HABITAN.**—A small landed proprietor. The term is French, but is little heard nowadays either in Louisiana or Canada.

**HACIENDA.**—A Spanish name for a large plantation upon which the owner resides. This word, with *rancho* (shortened into ranch), has become thoroughly acclimatized in the States, especially on the Pacific slope.

**HACK.**—Cabs are invariably called *hacks*. This term is, of course, only a survival of Old English usage.

**HACKAMORE.**—A plaited bridle in use on the plains, made of horse-hair, and used for breaking-in purposes. *Hackamore* is held to be derived from the Spanish *jaquima*, a halter.

**HACKBERRY** (*Celtis occidentalis*).—A small but useful tree, another popular name for which is the SUGAR-BERRY. Its fruit is edible, and its dried wood is very desirable as fuel.

**HACKEE.**—The lively little CHIPMUNK (*q.v.*) is thus named in some of the Eastern States.

**HACKMATAK** (*Larix americana*).—The American larch or tamarack. The popular name is that by which the Indians knew this very useful

tree. Its wood is hard, strong, and durable, and it is largely found throughout British America and the North Eastern States.

**HAIL.**—TO RAISE HAIL.—To cause a disturbance; to kick up a row. A similar expression is TO RAISE CAIN; the latter, however, indicating more heat and passion than the former.

Buckskin Joe says he was largely instrumental in getting some five thousand settlers into Greer county, and he is determined that they shall have a clear deed to one hundred and sixty acres of land when the question is settled, or he will RAISE HAIL.—*Portland Transcript*, March 7, 1888.

**HAIR.**—A SUIT OF HAIR, equivalent to what in England would be called a *head of hair*. A Southern phrase. —TO RAISE OR LIFT THE HAIR is, when translated from the rude vernacular of trappers and frontiersmen, the process of scalping. The North American Indians, of all savage races, alone appear to have practised this form of violation of the bodies of dead foes; with them, however, the possession of human hair is regarded as a kind of charm, and it is called GOOD or BIG MEDICINE from the supposed lucky qualities inherent to it. Idiomatically, *to raise* an opponent's *hair* is to defeat him. —A HAIR OF BLACK B'AR.—A spice of the devil. A hunter's expression.

**HAIR-PIN.**—THAT'S THE KIND OF HAIR-PIN I AM!—An inane exclamation,

used in season and out of season a short time ago. Fortunately, catch-phrases of the gutter are never long-lived, and speedily give way to others, which, if equally meaningless, at all events give variety. *That's the kind of hair-pin I am* originated in New York.

The license procured, the young prospective bridegroom, with a glowing face, turned around, folded his sweetheart in his arms, and gave her a resounding smack.

'That's the kind of HAIR-PINS we are,' said the enthusiastic swain. 'We marry for love, we do,' and he kissed her again and left the office.—*Detroit Free Press*, October 6, 1888.

**HALF-A-HOG** (Cant).—This flash term, which among English thieves is applied to a sixpenny-bit, is in America given to a five-cent-piece. —**HALF-A-HED** is a five-dollar-gold-piece.

**HALF-BREEDS**.—Originally, in its political sense, a derisive nickname applied to certain Republicans of New York, who wavered in their party allegiance during the fight over the United States' Senatorship in 1881.

**HALF-COCKED**.—To GO OFF HALF-COCKED.—He who does things hastily without due preparation, and who, therefore, fails to attain what is otherwise within his reach, is said to go off half-cocked. The metaphor is borrowed from sporting phraseology.

Now don't GO OFF HALF-COCK; folks never gains  
By usin' pepper-sarse instid o' brains.  
Come, neighbor, you don't understand.  
—*Biglow Papers*.

**HALF-MADE**.—A half-made person is a weak-minded, or shallow-brained individual. A New England phrase, which is provincial in England.

**HALF-WIDOW**.—This term is, in New England and New York, applied to a woman whose husband is shiftless, and fails in his duty to properly provide for her necessities.

**HALVES**.—To THE HALVES.—Lowell says, concerning this New England colloquialism, that it still survives in America though it is obsolete in England. It means either to let or to hire a piece of land, the lessee and lessor receiving half the profit in money and half in kind (*partibus locare*).

**HALL**.—GO! HIRE A HALL!—A somewhat peremptory slang injunction—"Begone!" Generally addressed to loquacious bores, being in fact a roundabout way of informing such persons that their room is preferable to their company.

**HAM**.—Sporting slang for a loafer.

Connelly is a cockney, has but one eye, and is very comical in make-up and address. He is a good fighter, but will allow the veriest HAM to whip him if there is any money to be made by it.—*Missouri Republican*, March 27, 1883.

—**HAMS** (Cant).—Trousers.—**NO HAM AND ALL HOMINY**.—Equivalent to "all work and no pay."

You see the fact is, Squire (said the Hoosier), they had a mighty deal to say up in our parts about Orleans, and how all-fired easy it is to make money in it; but it's no HAM AND ALL HOMINY, I reckon.—*Pickings from the Picayune*, p. 67.

**HAMFATTER**.—A recent name, in some quarters of New York, for a second-rate dude or masher, and more especially applied to the habitués of the Rialto in that city.

I'll warrant that these ladies who complain have, if the truth were known, strolled after many a matinée up and down Broadway by the Fifth Avenue Hotel and the Hoffman, and, were they so fortunate as to receive an admiring glance from the well-dressed and more prosperous professional



brother of the HAMFATTER, they were not offended, forsooth. — *New York Herald*, July 29, 1888.

**HAMLET** (Cant).—In New York a term given to a sergeant of police.

**HAMMOCK**.—This word, applied to land, must not be confounded with hummock, a rounded hillock or floating piece of ice. The *hammock* land of the South is undulating country, thickly wooded with oak, hickory, and magnolia. The soil, when cleared, is preferred to any other kind.

Mr. Christopher owns a farm one mile south-west of the hotel. Within the past six months he has had cleared about six acres of the richest HAMMOCK land, which is now planted in vegetables.—*Florida Times Union*, February 8, 1888.

The word *hammock*, thus applied, is probably the same in derivation to the swinging bed known by that name, and comes from the Carib *amaca*, to undulate.

**HAND**.—TO HAVE A HAND LIKE A FOOT OUTFIT, is a vulgar way of stating that the hands are large.—HANDS UP! or THROW UP YOUR HANDS! is an expression used by highwaymen and desperadoes, the meaning being that those thus accosted shall hold up their hands to show that they have no weapons, or, if they have, to prevent their being used. The request is invariably backed up with a full-cocked revolver or other deadly weapon, and resistance means instant death, unless the one assailed is quick enough to turn the tables upon his assailant.

'Drop the knife?' thundered the stranger, at the same time laying his hand upon his pistol pocket.

The bully noticed the last action, and letting go the boy, yelled, with added oaths, 'Curse you, shut up! Who are you anyhow?' The large man was evidently very angry. He held the knife in his left hand, and with his right drew a heavy revolver, which he proceeded to level at the stranger.

'THROW UP YOUR HANDS quick!' shouted the latter. But the fellow did not hear this warning. Click! went the hammers of the pistols. It was a question of quarter-seconds now. Bang! went one revolver—the stranger's—and the big man fell—dead.—*Portland Transcript*, March 14th, 1888.

**HAND-DOGS**.—In New England the term used instead of fire-dogs.

**HAND-GLASSES**.—Eye-glasses and spectacles are so called in New York.

**HANDLE, To**.—A peculiar meaning attaches to this verb in Connecticut. There, it is an equivalent of "to trouble" or "to distress," and a troublesome cough would be said to *handle* the person so afflicted.

—TO FLY OFF THE HANDLE.—To lose all patience; to become excited; to fail to fulfil a promise. A phrase borrowed from pioneer life in which a sound and serviceable axe is of equal importance with a trusty rifle. Thus, for an axe to part company with its handle, as badly made tools are apt to do, is a serious trouble and trial to the temper and patience—synonymous with the keenest disappointment. Like most idioms of its kind, its meaning is occasionally extended to signify death. Usually, however, in the last named sense the phrase runs to SLIP OFF THE HANDLE.

There are men who, under the most aggravating circumstances, are as cool as a cucumber on ice. There are other men who FLY OFF THE HANDLE for the most trivial causes, and become furious if their integrity is impeached.—*Texas Siftings*, 1888.

You never see such a crotchical old critter as he is. He FLIES right off the HANDLE for nothing.—*Sam Slick in England*.

'I can't say that I'm stuck on Sue Fitzpercy,' remarked Amy. 'She is liable to FLY OFF THE HANDLE.'

'Yes,' replied Mildred, mildly correcting her friends slang. 'I too have observed her tendency to disassociate herself from the hilt with winged celerity.'—*Pittsburg Chronicle*, 1888.

**HAND-ME-DOWNS.**—Second-hand clothes; from being handed down from one person to another; also ready-made clothing.

Independence in the matter of personal decoration is one of the advantages of being rich. Russell Sage, it is said, walked into a Broadway clothing store the other day and tried on and purchased a twelve-dollar suit of **HAND-ME-DOWNS**.—*New York World*, March 5, 1888.

This phrase, which is slang in England, is colloquial in the States.

**HAND-ROUND.**—A social gathering, whether for tea, dancing, or other amusements, where the refreshments are *handed round*.

We do dance, of course, but a **HAND-ROUND**, out here, is where we don't sit at table, but hand round the vittles. The table can't be set, you know, on 'count of its clutterin' up the dancin' room.—*Putnam's Magazine*.

**HAND RUNNING.**—So many times *hand running*, i.e., "consecutively"—an expression which is not infrequently heard in the North of England,—is colloquial in the States.

**HAND-SHAKE.**—A compound noun of obvious meaning. Colloquial everywhere.

**HANDSOME THING.**—TO DO THE HANDSOME THING is a Yankee's effusive way of saying that he will be generous, or very polite. Perhaps the English nearest equivalent is being "civil." — **HANDSOMELY.**—Among American sailors *handsomely* is used in the sense of carefully or steadily, so had the sailors in the "Little Midshipmite" song been Yankee salts their chorus would have run, "*Handsomely* my lads, yo ho," etc.

**HANDWRITE.**—A Southern corruption for handwriting; thus, an indifferent writer would be said to have a bad

*handwrite*, or, as in English slang, a bad "fist."

**HANDY.**—**HANDY AS A POCKET IN A SHIRT.**—A New England simile for convenient.

**HANG.**—TO GET THE HANG OF.—To understand; to enter into the idea of; to see the drift of an argument, or the result of an action.

I passed through an open door leading into a back room, where were a small party of men and women betting at *monté*. I lost a couple of dollars, just TO GET THE HANG of the game, as the facetious Sam Slick would say, and then retired to my lodgings.—*Kendall, Santa Fé Expedition*, vol. 1, p. 46.

**HANG BIRD** (*Icterus baltimore*).—The Baltimore oriole; the popular name being taken from its hanging nest.

The six old willows at the causey's end, Striped here and there with many a long-drawn thread.  
Where streamed, through leafy chinks, the trembling red,  
Past which, in one bright trail, the **HANG-BIRD's** flashes blend.  
—*J. R. Lowell in an Indian Summer Reverie*.

**HANGING BEE.**—A gathering of people to execute lynch law by hanging (see **BEE**). An event of this kind is always a most exciting event in a frontier settlement. When it becomes known that Judge Lynch is holding court, all the people take to the streets in order to follow the subsequent proceedings. Mines, saloons, mills, gambling-rooms, law offices, and mercantile establishments are emptied, and business of all kinds, save what is in the hands of Judge Lynch, is for the time suspended. The gamblers and roughs of a Western community can kill each other at will, and the decent people never interfere, but whenever a rough kills a working man, a business man, or any man known to

be respectable in his mode of life, Judge Lynch is called in to adjudicate.

**HANG IT UP** (Cant).—An injunction not to forget; "bear it in mind!"

**HANGMAN'S DAY** (Cant).—Friday being the day usually chosen in America for carrying out the extreme penalty of the law, it has, amongst the criminal classes, come to be thus known. In England, Monday is the usual day.

**HANK, TO.**—*To hank* a man is to know something of him to his detriment.

**HANNAH.**—THAT'S WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH HANNAH.—A street catch-phrase with no especial meaning. For a time it rounded off every statement of fact or expression of opinion amongst the vulgar.

**HANNAHILL** (*Centropristes nigricans*).—The black sea-bass; black hARRY is another popular name for this fish. Large quantities are sent to market from May to July; it is much esteemed, its flesh being very delicate.

**HAPPEN IN, TO.**—Used colloquially in the sense of to make an unintentional call.

I HAPPENED in one fine day, and found them all fast asleep before ten o'clock.—*J. P. Kennedy, Swallow Barn.*

**HAPPENINGS.**—Occurrences; events; circumstances. Newspapers often have the head-line, "*Happenings of Interest.*"

People since then have got a clearer insight into the situation, and see now that Germany's course, wedged in as it is between hostile Powers, must be mapped

out for her by external HAPPENINGS and not by her own initiative.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, 1888.

**HAPPIFY, TO.**—A factitious form derived from happy. Also in a similar sense HAPPIFYING.

**HAPPYGRAM.**—A spurious word, partially moulded on a much-discussed pattern, *i.e.*, "telegram," and signifying a witticism or happy saying; a *bon mot*.

Whoever wrote this will kindly accept our congratulations on his HAPPYGRAM:

The bells are all ringing for parsons to preach—

How delightful to Christians the fact is!  
Oh! when will the peals my sad tympanum reach,

Of bells for the parson to practice?

—*American Humorist*, August 11, 1888.

**HAPPY HUNTING GROUNDS.**—The future state, according to the belief of the Indian, whose chief business in life, apart from the war-path, is hunting. In it he found (the past tense must be used, because the buffalo, his chief game, is almost extinct) his greatest pleasure and means of subsistence—hence his idea of heaven naturally pictured a place where these necessities of his existence would be perpetuated without stint. The phrase has passed into popular language.

Jackson Crow is a desperado who has sent more than one man to the HAPPY HUNTING GROUNDS during his life in the wilds of the Indian Territory.—*St. Louis Daily Globe Democrat*, 1888.

Dodge says that the Indian's idea of the future life in the *happy hunting grounds* is as vague, confused, indefinite, and inconsistent, as can well be imagined. He believes that he will be happy, perfectly happy; but of the how, why, or wherefore, he pretends to know nothing. His creed is a wide one; for all persons, of all



ages, sexes, colors, or beliefs, who die unscalped or unstrangled, will meet in that final haven of bliss. He goes there just as he was here, with the same passions, feelings, wishes, and needs. His favorite pony is killed at his burying-place, to enjoy an eternity of beautiful pasture, and to bear his master in war or in the chase. He will need arms to defend himself against enemies (man or beast): his rifle, pistol, bow, and quiver, are buried with him. He will need fire: so flint and steel, or a box of matches go towards the outfit for his final journey. There is no death in that life, but wounds and pain, hunger and thirst, love, revenge, ambition, all the passions or incentives to action are there. The Indian knows no happiness in this life, except in the gratification of his natural appetites. His future life will develop greater capacity and wider opportunities for the enjoyment of such appetites. He will meet enemies, whom, however, he strives to make as few as possible in that world, by scalping as many as possible in this. He will encounter dangerous beasts, for the spirits or phantoms of all animals, reptiles, birds, insects, and fishes, go also to the *happy hunting grounds*. In short the next world is to be simply an intensified continuation of this—death alone overcome.

**HAPPY LAND.**—To CHECK A FELLOW CITIZEN THROUGH TO THE HAPPY LAND.—This operation is in the West generally performed with a common derringer or a Georgia bowie.

**HARD (Cant).**—A term applied to all metals. When it is wished to distinguish silver and gold money, they are called **HARD COLE**. On the

other hand, counterfeit money is called **HARDWARE**.

**HARD CIDER CAMPAIGN.**—See **TIPPECANOE**.

**HARD COAL, SOFT COAL.**—Anthracite and bituminous coal are respectively so called.

If you live in the East and strike Chicago on a Sunday, you find the atmosphere and sky like those familiar to you; when you go out upon the street on a Monday morning, if the day should be damp and lowery, you see smoke and steam that cloud the air and close the vistas at half a mile or a mile. Of course, you know they burn more **SOFT COAL** than **HARD COAL** in Chicago, as they do in all the West, but still the effect seems new to you. In bright, clear weather, the effect is much less marked, but it didn't strike me as unpleasant any way. Seen from the lake front on a cloudy day the city seemed like a great fire.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, March 9, 1888.

**HARDHACK** (*Spiraea tomentosa*).—A small unassuming plant found in New England.

Our narrow New England lanes, shut in by bleak stone walls on either hand, and where no better flowers are to be gathered than golden rod and **HARDHACK**.—*J. Russell Lowell*.

**HARD HEAD.**—The popular name in Maine for the **MENHADEN** or **BONYFISH** (*q.v.*).

**HARD MONEY.**—Bullion as distinguished from greenbacks or paper-money.

**HARD PAN.**—When prices are at *hard pan*, it means that they are at the lowest point. The simile in this case is drawn from a term used in geology, to designate the lowest stratum of earth.

Another [telegram] received yesterday, reported that Liverpool cables noted a good business in Manchester with prospects that it would continue; that futures were being absorbed, and prices were at **HARD PAN**.—*Missouri Republican*, March 2, 1888.

**HARD ROW.**—A HARD ROW TO HOE.—This simile is drawn from the cultivation of Indian corn—and is synonymous with what is difficult of accomplishment.

You'll find courting Sallie a pretty HARD ROW TO HOE, and when you have got her, it's likely you'll wish you had never taken the job.—*The Hunter and the Squatter*.

—TO HOE ONE'S OWN ROW is to attend to one's own business.

Now that I have HOED MY OWN ROW and rumor gives me a false condition, they deluge me with congratulations.—*Prentice Mulford, San Francisco Chronicle, 1871.*

**HARD RUN.**—TO BE HARD RUN OR HARD PUSHED, is an American's way of translating "hard up," or of stating that difficulties are crowding upon him, which may arise either from trouble or poverty.—Compare with RUN.

**HARDS.**—HARDS and SOFTS, or HARD-SHELLS and SOFT-SHELLS, are terms which are freely used in a variety of political connections, but the earliest conspicuous instance was in 1854, when the Hunkers took the name of "Hards," and their opponents, the Barnburners, that of *Softs*. Originally sects of the Baptist denomination were termed *Hard-shells* and *Soft-shells*, by their unregenerate critics, the simile being drawn from the crab in its different states of existence. The views of the *Hard-shell* Baptists were of a very strict and rigid character, the *Soft-shell* Baptists being of a more liberal turn of mind as regards worldly practices.—*See SHELL*.

He is, said Mr. E., a regular member of the HARD-SHELL Baptist church, a very pious man, not of very eminent ability, but just the man to pray for such a crowd as this.—*Baltimore Sun, 1888.*

**HARD WOOD.**—This term is used of woods which, though of solid texture, are not durable. Among these may be mentioned beech, birch, maple, ash, etc.

**HARE IT!** (Cant).—To *hare it* is to return; to come back. This expression is obviously borrowed from the doubling of a hare when hotly pursued.

**HARM.**—In Georgia *harm* is used in the sense of unkind; thus unkind words would be *harm* words, and in speaking well of a person it might be said that "he never did a *harm* thing to anyone." This adjective is probably but a contraction of "harmful."

**HARMAN** (Cant).—This old term for a policeman still retains its hold on the criminal classes in America, though in England it has long since given way to other appellations. Lord Lytton, in speaking of gipseys thieves in *The Disowned*, said that

"The worst have an awe of the  
*harman's* claw,  
And the best will avoid the trap."

— It is also curious to note that the same class of the community designate a sheriff as a HARMAN-BEAK.

**HARP** (Cant).—A woman.

**HARVEST LICE** is a misnomer; the term is applied to the adhesive seeds of plants of the *Bidens* species.

**HASH.**—TO GO BACK ON ONE'S HASH, *i.e.*, having put one's hand to the plough to turn back; or, as the same racy vernacular of the West sometimes puts it, TO WEAKEN in face of unexpected difficulties and hard-

ships.—HASH HOUSE is an old piece of Boston slang for what in England would be called a refreshment room. It originated some forty years ago.—To HASH is, in thieves' parlance, "to vomit," and is probably a variant of the English slang "to *hash up*."

**HAT.**—In the Northern States ladies wear *hats* and not bonnets; or rather they give the name of *hat* to both kinds of headgear. Only in sun-bonnet is any distinction made.—WELL, YOU CAN TAKE MY HAT!—A slang expression equivalent to "well that beat's me!"—"that's past belief."

'What's yer name?' 'Name Grief, manssa.' 'Name *what*?' 'Name Grief.' 'Get out! Yew're jokin'! What's yer name, anyhow?' 'Name GRIEF, manssa.' WAL, YEW KIN TAKE MY HAT.—*A Yankee in a Planters' House*, 1873.

—SHOOT THAT HAT! is a street catch-phrase current some short time since—about as pregnant with meaning as "who's your hatter?"

—To TALK THROUGH ONE'S HAT.  
—To bluff; to bluster.

Dis is only a bluff dey're makin'—see? Dey're TALKIN' TRU DEIR HATS. Did y'ever see a kid when his old woman wanted to make him wear gloves fer de fust time? He'll beef an' kick like a steer an' let on he won't never wear 'em, an' all de time he's ded stuck on 'em. Dat's der way wit' dem blokies.—*New York World*, May 13, 1888.

**HATCHES.**—When in trouble or distress thieves report themselves as being *under hatches*. The simile is drawn from sea-faring life.

**HATCHET.**—Amongst Indian tribes certain symbolic ceremonies are connected with the war-hatchet or tomahawk, which are equivalent to a declaration of war, or to a compact of peace.—To BURY THE HATCHET is the emblem of the putting away of strife and enmity; on

the other hand, before he commences hostilities the red skin digs up afresh the fateful symbol.

Buried was the BLOODY HATCHET;  
Buried was the dreadful war-club;  
Buried were all warlike weapons,  
And the war-cry was forgotten;  
Then was peace among the nations.  
—*Longfellow, Hiawatha*, xiii.

This picturesque imagery has passed into the colloquial inheritance of the American people, and the expressions of *burying* or *digging up the hatchet* are frequently applied to the affairs of everyday life.

I don't know what you'll think, sir—I didn't come to inquire—  
But I picked up that agreement and stuffed it in the fire;  
And I told her we'd BURY THE HATCHET alongside of the cow;  
And we struck an agreement never to have another row.  
—*Will Carleton's Farm Ballads*.

—A HATCHET is likewise the name of the "grease" used in lubricating the palms of dishonest Customs officials.

**HATE.**—A bit, the "haet" of Lowland Scotch. "There was not a *hate* of truth about the news."—To HATE OUT is the significant term given by the Western man to a practice very much akin to boycotting. Is a member of the community objectionable to his neighbors, he has either to acquiesce in gently persuasive hints concerning the error of his ways, or he has to make himself scarce. If so dense as to fail to discern "the signs of the times," things are made a little warm, and influences brought to bear upon him which, in the long run, rarely fail in bringing about his banishment. This is called *hating out* a man.

**HAVEY CAVEY** (Cant).—That which is uncertain; doubtful; or wavering; probably of mongrel descent from



English "have," and Latin "*cave*," take care! the idea conveyed by this admonition being one of suspense and doubt.

**HAVIL (Cant).—**A sheep.

**HAVVERS.—**In Pennsylvania, "going halves" is corrupted into going *havvers*.

**HAWK (Cant).—**A not inappropriate name for a swindler, more especially one who works the confidence trick.

**HAWK-EYE STATE.—**Iowa. *Hawkeye* was the name of a notorious Indian chief, whose depredations were once the terror of the inhabitants of this State.

**HAWKIN'S WHETSTONE.—**Inferior rum. Mr. Hawkins, a one time zealous temperance advocate, having roused the ire of some Western men,—thirsty souls, who loved their liquor, if not wisely, but too well,—they, in retaliation, sought to turn the tables on the temperance reformer, by branding a low-class rum with his name. This cheap retort served for a time amongst these boon companions, but the expression is rarely used nowadays.

**HAY, To.—**To make hay.

The men who have been out among the horses and cattle come riding in, to be joined by their fellows—if any there be—who have been hunting, or *HAYING*, or chopping wood.—*Ranch Life in the Far West*.

**HAY BARRACK.—**In the State of New York, a kind of adjustable hayrick is so named. From the Dutch *hooi-berg*, hay-mountain.

**HAY-PITCHER.—**A countryman; one not accustomed to the wiles of city life. *Puck*, the chief American comic paper, has personified such a character under the title of "Uncle Hayseed."

"I'll be consarned if I kin see whar thet business is wuth any six dols., and I wouldn't hev come into his shop if I had known it," protested the imitation *HAY-PITCHER*.

The museum man said the countryman ought to know what he was about before he had people go to great trouble on his account.—*New York World*, 1888.

Al (to *HAYSEED*).—"Ever read Ouida?"  
H.—"No, but by golly I must get his books. The weeds in my garden are raisin' eternal tarnation."  
(Exit Al.)

—*Detroit Free Press*, September 29, 1888.

**HAY-WARD OR HAY-WARDEN.—**A township officer, whose duty it is to impound stray cattle and feed them until they are redeemed by their owners. The word undoubtedly went over with the early colonists, since it is found in old English records, and is allied to "hedge-ward," "fence-ward," etc. It sometimes occurs as "haward." An absurd derivation has obtained some currency to the effect, that this official gets his title from driving the cattle *hay-ward*, i.e., in the direction of hay.

**HAZE, To.—**(1) To frolic; to play practical jokes. The term is applied either to the harmless fun and nonsense of school girls, or euphemistically in describing a drunken spree.

The deeply-rooted custom of *HAZING* the new cadets has been successfully suppressed, and no instance of ill-treatment has been brought to the knowledge of the superintendent.—*Official Report of West Point Academy*.

So woman is completing her conquest of the planet. She rows. She smokes. She preaches. She *HAZES*. She shoots. She rides. And now she has lassoed the iron grasshopper [the bicycle] that man has

hitherto exclusively bestridden, and has fearlessly mounted it. For myself, I can only sympathetically exclaim, 'More power to the elbow of her lower extremities!'—*Philadelphia Bulletin*, February 27, 1883.

—(2) Amongst sailors to *haze* is used when work is being carried out at high pressure.

**HEAD.**—TO PUT A HEAD ON an adversary is a slang phrase of nearly twenty years' standing. By it is conveyed a purpose to annihilate; to get quite the better of an opponent.

But all his jargon was surpassed, in wild absurdity,  
By threats, profanely emphasized, to PUT A HEAD ON ME!  
No son of Bellal, said I, that miracle can do!  
Whereat he fell upon me with blows and curses, too;  
But failed to work that miracle—if such was his design—  
Instead of PUTTING ON A HEAD, he strove to smite off mine.

—*Words and Their Uses. Galveston News.*

—TO SWELL THE HEAD.—Young people are said to get their head swelled by imbibing strange ideas.

Anna Kelly, the pretty-eighteen-year old daughter of Squire P. J. Kelly, is missing from her home in Newport. . . . She did not return home yesterday, and her parents are very anxious as to her whereabouts. Somebody has been SWELLING HER HEAD, and it is sincerely trusted that she will regret her unwise, rashact, and return home. —*Cincinnati Enquirer*, 1888.

**HEAD-CHEESE.**—The flesh of pig's head and feet minced, and when cooked, pressed—very similar to brawn. This compound is also known as SOUSE, and in Maryland, as HOG'S-HEAD CHEESE.

**HEADER.**—A New York term for a joint.

**HEAD OFF, TO.**—Used idiomatically in the sense of to turn from a purpose; or, "to put off,"—to distract attention.

He was always HEADED OFF in this way. He never could see one of those good little boys on account of his always dying in the last chapter.—*Mark Twain's Screemers.*

**HEADQUARTERS.**—MY HEADQUARTERS ARE IN THE SADDLE.—This saying is attributed to General Pope. Appealing to the public taste, it soon became synonymous with close attention to duty and unwearying vigilance.

**HEAD-RIGHTS.**—A title to certain of the public lands, which every citizen of the United States, being the head of a family, can claim if he desires so to do. These rights are also enjoyed by women within certain limits.

**HEAR.**—YOU HEAR ME!—A pleonastic ejaculation of Californian origin. Used to emphasize a statement already made, and to which assent has been given. "Will you go to-night?" "Yes! that's so." "Wa'al! you hear me!" — TO HEAR TO.—Colloquially perverted in some localities, especially Connecticut, to signify consent—a corruption of "to hear of." "The judge would not hear to anything of the kind."

**HEARN.**—The old participle form of "heard," and which, like most Old English survivals, is more current in New England than elsewhere.

'It's thinkin' everythin' you ever knew,  
Or ever HEARN to make your feelin's blue."  
—*J. R. Lowell's Biglow Papers.*

**HEATER PIECE.**—As applied to land, a triangular or wedge-shaped piece of ground. This New England phrase is thought to be derived from the similarity of shape to the "heaters" of box irons used by housewives.

**HEATHEN CHINEE.**—Bret Harte's inimitable poem of *Truthful James* is the source from which this sobriquet for a Chinaman is derived. The picture there drawn of the *Heathen Chinese*, "with his ways that are dark and tricks that are vain," took and still retains the public fancy to such a degree that, without doubt, the nickname is now as permanent a one as Brother Jonathan or John Bull.

**HEAVE, TO (Cant).**—To steal, to rob.  
—**HEAVER** (1) The bosom or breast, a slang term, obvious in its derivation. (2) A person in love.

**HE-BIDDY.**—A male fowl. A product of prudery and squeamishness.

**HEEL, TO.**—(1) In cowboy vernacular TO HEEL is to lariat or secure an animal by the hind leg.—(2) In the West, TO BE or GO HEELED is to be armed with deadly weapons, and hence, metaphorically, a man well heeled is regarded as secure from attack.

**HEELERS.**—The followers or henchmen of a politician or party. The term always carries a contemptuous significance.—See Boy.

Some political wiseacres express the opinion that Gorman and Barnum only desired to bring to the undivided attention of the president that the **HEELERS** and strikers, bummers and stuffers, otherwise known as practical politicians, who do the work at the Democratic polls and manipulate the primaries and local conventions, and against whose calling and claims the Administration professes to set its face, are very important factors and of paramount necessity in the ensuing Democratic canvass.—*Denver Republican*, February 29, 1888.

—Colloquially the expression is also applied to loafers and idlers of every description, and especially to those frequenting drinking saloons, and who are on the look out for shady work of any kind.

'Where'd yer say dis rat of yours was?' asked Jimmy, coming close up to the stranger's chair.

'Why, right there —.' The stranger looked downward—the rat had vanished. The gang gathered about him.

'Did he think he seen rats, Jimmy?' confidentially asked the head **HEELER**.

'Yes; de poor devil's got 'em bad, I reckon. He oughter see a doctor and get some medicine. If he gits de jams dey'll hustle him up to de hospital and kill um. Dey kills um all at de hospital, for dey shuts off de booze too sudden.'—*Denver Republican*, March 4, 1888.

—Among thieves the *heeler* gets his name from a practice when acting as an accomplice in what is called the "pocket-book racket." This consists in drawing attention, by touching the victim's heels, to a pocket-book, containing counterfeited money, dropped by his companion. The object then is to induce the finder to part with genuine coin in dividing the spoils.

**HEEL FLY.**—An insect pest which infests cattle on Western ranches.

**HEIFER.**—A term which, in the West, does the same duty as the kindly, if rough, "old woman" of the English lower classes. *Old heifer*, like "old woman," is in point of fact a pet name amongst those who use it.

**HEIR, TO.**—To inherit. This strange corruption is common to New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

A little boy is now the sole survivor, and **HEIRS** an estate which, a gentleman informs us, is worth some five or six thousand dollars.—*New York Times*, 1888.

**HELL.**—Many are the expressive similes which the Yankee draws from the place where, as he says, "they don't rake out their fires nights." Perhaps among the most forcible are those by which he expresses rapidity of motion and extreme heat,— "quicker than *hell*"



a beatin' tan bark"; and "hot as the Devil's kitchen."

**HELL BENDER** (1) (*Menopoma alleghaniensis*).—The American salamander, and so-called from its extreme ugliness. —(2) A protracted and intensified drunken frolic—the superlative of BENDER (*q.v.*).

**HELL-BOX**.—American printers' slang, the *hell-box* being the counterpart of the "batter-slipper" of their fellow craftsmen in England. Also **BAALAM BOX**.—**HELL-MATTER**.—Broken and battered type, the destination of which is the *hell-box*.

I swept out his office; I picked up his type from under his stand; and, if he was there to see, I put the good type in his case and the broken ones among the **HELL-MATTER**, and if he wasn't there to see, I dumped it all with the pi on the imposing stone—for that was the furtive fashion of the cub, and I was a cub.—*Mark Twain as a Printer in the New York Sun*.

**HELL-DIVER**.—The **DIPPER** (*q.v.*).

**HELL-HOUNDS**.—A name by which the Confederates spoke of the Northern gun-boats.

**HELLO SONNY! HELLO SIS!**—In American cities every boy and girl is thus familiarly addressed.

**HELP**.—A domestic servant is so called in America. The term itself is an outcome of New England social equality, and has recently found some footing in England.

They had two English servants and some other American **HELP**; but they called the Americans by their last names, which Anglified them to some extent. They had a servants' hall, and a butlers' pantry, and a page in buttons, and they were unreasonably proud of the fact that one of their Tory ancestors had been obliged to leave New York for Halifax, in 1784, having only the alternative of a more tropical residence.—*Puck*, 1888.

**HEMP, TO** (Cant).—To choke; in this manner, gentlemen of the craft manage to keep in lively remembrance the possible future adornment of their own necks with a "hempen cravat."

**HEN**.—A cant term for a woman. In use amongst thieves and their associates.

**HEN-BIDDY**.—A familiar term for a hen.

**HEN-CLAM** (*Macra gigantea*).—A name given in New England to a species of clam.

**HEN FRUIT**.—A vulgarism for eggs.

We don't profess to know much about hens, and a man who buys his eggs in town, isn't supposed to know anything about eggs; but we do know that after eating an egg that was born some time during the war, a man is apt to lay down and dream something like Dr. Jekyll and Henry Hyde, whereas if he confines his **HEN FRUIT** to the vintage of '87 he has a clear approving conscience, and wants to sit at a sunny window and sing hymns.—*Boston Globe*, 1887.

**HEN-HAWK** (*Falco lineatus*).—The red-shouldered hawk.

**HEN PARTY**.—A gathering consisting only of women. Compare with **BUCK-PARTY**, **STAG-PARTY**.

The bride and bridegroom meet first on the marriage platform. After they are married the woman associates chiefly with women and the man with men, and the parties of Corea are, I judge, all **HEN PARTIES** or all **STAG PARTIES**.—*American Humorist*, May 26, 1888.

**HEPTASOPHS**.—A masonic order of Louisiana origin, having been founded before the Civil War. It was chartered and attained considerable property, owning some valuable real estate. The vicissitudes of war, however, dissolved many of the conclaves, until finally

only one remained. Within the past year it has revived and now numbers several hundred members.

**HERMIT THRUSH** (*Turdus palasi*).—A bird of passage with sweetly plaintive notes. It is called the *hermit-thrush* because of its shy and mysterious habits.

**HERRING** (Cant).—When anything is described as *herring* it means that it is all bad; or, if in bulk that all are alike.

**HERRING POND, THE**.—The Atlantic. This expression is of Yankee origin. The Atlantic is also sometimes called the BIG DRINK.

**HERRING SALMON** (*Coregonus clupeiformis*).—A namelocal to Lake Erie and Lewistown for the SHAD SALMON or WHITE FISH.

**HESSIAN**.—Primarily, a name given to soldiers, from the principality of that name, who were engaged as mercenaries on the side of the British, in the War of the Revolution. These men were so disliked on that account that their very name became synonymous with all that is detestable in partizanship. Generally speaking, a *Hessian* is a mercenary politician; one who will sell his principles for gold; but, during the Civil War, the title was given contemptuously by the Southerners to the Federal soldiers.

**HESSIAN FLY** (*Cecidomyia destructor*).—An insect pest, whose ravages on wheat are notorious. It is supposed to have been introduced into America in the straw beds used by Hessian soldiers engaged in the War of Independence, hence its popular name. Authorities differ

very much concerning this insect; some entomologists assert that it is indigenous to America, while others profess to trace its existence in Europe over a very extended period.

**HETCH, TO**.—To wonder. Thus in reply to—"What are you doing?" might come, "*Hetchin'* some."

Dawson took me to the main trail by a shortcut, and as we sat down on a rock to have a last smoke together, he said: 'I've been HETCHIN',' 'What about?' 'Wall, we saw you comin' up the trail that day behind us an'took you fur a spy.' 'You did?' 'Did you hev any pecooliar feelin' jist then?' 'No.' 'No tremblin' or shakin?' 'No.'—*Detroit Free Press*, September 15, 1888.

**HICKEY** (Cant).—A degree or two short of being drunk, the good-tempered roseate stage.

**HICKJOP** (Cant).—A fool, as also is —HICKSAM which, in addition, is also the term for a countryman, on the principle, it would appear, that all such are, from a thief's point of view, simpletons.

**HICKORY**.—*Carya* of several species have received this name, all of which are indigenous to the New World. *Hickory* timber is exceedingly tough and strong, besides being flexible to an unusual degree. Its name is of Indian origin; by them it was called the Pawcohicora. Colloquially *hickory* has been employed as a nickname for persons and objects partaking of the qualities of the wood of this tree. Hence a Catholic, free from bigotry and of yielding theology, would be called a HICKORY CATHOLIC; and the HICKORY UNIONIST of the Border States, who deprecated but consented to the imprisonment of Confederate prisoners, will readily occur to mind. So also HICKORY

SHIRTS for their strength.—Politically, the *hickory* was adopted as the emblematic tree of the Democratic Party during the Jackson Campaign of 1828. Jackson's military and political nickname was "Old Hickory," from his toughness and tenacity at the Battle of New Orleans, and for many years no flagpole was recognized as truly Democratic unless it was of *hickory*.—HICKORY NUT.—The fruit of the hickory. These nuts are also erroneously called walnuts in the North, especially in New York.

**HICKSITES.**—A sect of Quakers; from Mr. Hicks, their founder.

**HIFER, To.**—In Northern Pennsylvania, to loiter.

**HIGH.**—How IS THAT FOR HIGH.—A modern slang expression, which has to a large extent taken the place of BULLY. *How is that for high?* is borrowed from a low game, known as Old Sledge, where the *high* depends, not on the card itself, but on the adversary's hand. Hence the phrase means, "What kind of an attempt is that at a great achievement? What do you think of it?" It is of Western origin, having made its appearance in some of the North-western journals, but has spread, as weeds do, rapidly all over the Union, and has found its way to England also. A familiar nursery-rhyme is thus altered to "suit the times":—

"Mary had a little lamb,  
It jumped up to the sky,  
And when it landed on its feet,  
Cried, '*How is that for high?*'"

while an editor, overcome with difficulties, made this touching though indirect appeal to his subscribers:—

"I had a dream the other night,  
When everything was still;  
I dreamed that each advertiser  
Came up and paid his bill;  
Each wore a look of honesty,  
And smiles were round each eye,  
And as they handed over the stamps,  
They yelled, '*How's that for high?*'"

—HIGH OLD TIME.—This is a Westerner's equivalent for what his Eastern compatriot would designate "a GOOD TIME" (See GOOD), such, for instance, as had the Prodigal Son, "way down Judee."

**HIGHBELIA.**—See LOWBELIA.

**HIGHBINDER.**—This word has two meanings:—(1) A rowdy or roysterer —(2) It is the name given to men employed as spies upon the Chinese. This is specially the case in California where the Chinese trouble has been most acute.

Wong Chin Foo, the young Chinese interpreter and writer, has secured a warrant for the arrest of a countryman who had tried to assassinate him on Monday. The man has not yet been arrested. Wong says that he suddenly stumbled upon a club of HIGHBINDERS who were evidently in secret session in the room where Joss reigns supreme. With hardly a warning several of them fell upon him. The grudge held against Wong by the HIGHBINDERS is said to be of long standing, having sprung up in St. Louis, where in certain HIGHBINDERS' murder trials Wong Foo acted as State's interpreter.—*Kingston (Canada) Daily Whig*, March 9, 1888.

**HIGH BLACKBERRY.**—The American name for the fruit of the *Rubus villosus*.

**HIGH BLOKE (Cant).**—By this elegant term, a judge is known amongst the American criminals.

**HIGH COLORING.**—A pugilistic phrase, synonymous with the free drawing of blood.



**HIGH DUTCHERS.**—Skates, the blades of which are ornamentally curled in front; those without this ornamentation are called *DUMPS*. The Dutch are well known as the best skaters in the world—hence the name as given to a superior kind of skate.

**HIGHFALUTIN.**—An American word, which fitly describes the exaggerated bombastic speech of a certain class of Americans. These are they who, being good, unfortunately know it; who, living admittedly in a fine country, think to enhance its greatness by somewhat questionable and certainly extravagant praise; who, in short, are ready to go anywhere, meet anybody, and are prepared, as they put it, "to whip all creation." Heavy public dinners are apt to generate *high falutin'*—sometimes to a very remarkable degree. At one such gathering, Daniel Webster is reported to have delivered himself of the following remarkable effusion:—"Men of Rochester, I am glad to see you, and I am glad to see your noble city. Gentlemen, I saw your falls, which, I am told, are a hundred and fifty feet high. Gentlemen, Rome had her Cæsar, her Scipio, her Brutus; but Rome, in her proudest day, had never a waterfall a hundred and fifty feet high! Gentlemen, Greece had her Demosthenes, her Pericles, her Socrates, but Greece, in her palmiest days, had never a waterfall a hundred and fifty feet high! Men of Rochester, go on! No people ever lost their liberties, who had a waterfall a hundred and fifty feet high." It would not be difficult to quote many such passages redolent with the most outrageous high-sounding nonsense, which, whether known as American *SPREAD-EAGLEISM* or British *bunkum*, merits only the severest deprecation. The deriva-

tion of the word itself has been variously derived—from "high fighting," "high floating," and, by Hotten from *verlooten*, to flay by whipping. The first source, however, is the most probable. The term has now become naturalised in England.

In your travels through the country, you are constantly running across two classes of people, the *HIFALUTIN'* boasters, who think they can whip all creation, and the apish imitators of European ways, who spend their time in apologising for their country. But it is only fair to say that the vast majority of the people belong to neither of these classes.  
—*New York Tribune*, 1888.

**HIGH GAG** (Cant).—To **TELL HIGH GAG** is to reveal that which is secret.

**HIGH HOLE** (*Picus amatus*).—The New York popular name for the **YELLOW HAMMER** or **FLICKER** (*q.v.*).

**HIGH JINKS** is a thief's term for a petty gambler.

**HIGH LIVER.**—A thief who lives in a garret—a literal translation into the cant of this class of a common fact.

**HIGH-MINDED FEDERALISTS.**—A derivative term applied in 1820 to a few Federalists who supported Governor Clinton, and were laughed at for their frequent use of the phrase "high-minded."

**HIGH-MUCK-A-MUCK.**—Overbearing in presence; possessed of inordinate self-esteem.

It isn't every day that a great **HIGH-MUCK-A-MUCK** United States senator, with lisle-thread socks and 10-dollar underclothes, goes calling on a little 10 by 12 western printing office; and it isn't every country editor who could have retained his usual equilibrium under such trying circumstances; and we would have been somewhat rattled ourself

if the senator had not adapted himself to our circumstances instead of forcing us to adapt ourselves to his.—*Troy Daily Times*, Feb. 8, 1888.

**HIGH STUDDER.**—To be *high studded* is to assume dignity or an airiness of manner.

**HIGH TIDE** (Cant).—It is *high tide* with thieves when money is plentiful; rarely, however, does it carry them on to fortune.

**HIGH TOBER** (Cant).—A member of the aristocracy of thieftom—the counterpart of the English swell mobsman.

**HIGH-TONED SOUTHERN GENTLEMAN.**—A cant phrase of Southern origin.

**HIKE, To** (Cant).—To run away; to decamp.

**HIND LEGS.**—To SIT UP ON ONE'S HIND LEGS AND HOWL.—A backwoodsman's picturesque phrase synonymous with "to raise a hullabaloo"; to create a disturbance.

**HINDOOS.**—A nickname given in 1856 to the KNOW NOTHINGS (*q.v.*). The president of the party in that year, Daniel Ulman by name, was rightly or wrongly supposed to have been born in Calcutta—hence the allusive sobriquet.

**HINDSIGHT.**—In its much restricted meaning the "backsight" of a gun; but colloquially *hindsight* is the popular antithesis of "foresight." The Americans have a shrewd and pithy saying, that "an ounce of foresight is worth a pound of *hindsight*."

**HIP INSIDE** (Cant).—The inside pocket of a coat.—**HIP OUTSIDE.**—The outside pocket.

**HIRED MAN.**—A man servant.

'Who first found the body?'

'His **HIRED MAN**, who was in the habit of coming in the morning to make the fire and do chores.'—*Police News*, 1888.

**HIST.**—A corruption of "hoist."

**HISTORY OF THE FOUR KINGS** (Cant).—A pack of cards

**HIT-EM-HARDS.**—Valentines of the scurrilous order.

Anyone having a spite to wreck can give a neat little pinch to his supposed enemy by sending him one of the elite comics, as they are called. They are of general application, are free from vulgarity, but are warranted to hit hard. There are changeable comics, long jokers, fault finders, **HIT-EM-HARDS** and sharp darts.—*Florida Times Union*, February 10, 1888.

**HITHER AND YON.**—A quaint New Englandism for "here and there," which is also provincial in the North of England.

**HITY-TITY, To.**—Americans, with their verb-making propensities, have not even left the familiar "hoity-toity!" alone. De Vere humorously remarks that this verb transitive implies the doing of that which calls forth the exclamation, as the Greek ἐλέγη meant ἐ λέγειν, to say ε, alas! It may be here remarked that there is an obsolete Old English verb "to hoist," to leap or caper.

**HO.**—THERE'S NO HO TO THE MATTER, *i.e.*, it exceeds all bounds. This curious word is given by Webster, and is said to be also current in Ireland for stop; moderation; bounds. It is thought to be a contraction of "whoa," used by teamsters.

**HOARSE UP.**—To BE HOARSED UP is to suffer from hoarseness produced by a severe cold.

**HOARY TITMOUSE** (*Parus atricapillus*).—Otherwise the CHICKADEE (*q.v.*).

**HOB AND HOBNAIL** (Cant).—Country joskins. — **HOBINOL**. A country clown.

**HOBBLE, To**.—When, on ranches, it is found necessary to secure horses or cattle in some manner short of absolute tethering to a stake or post, they are *hobbled*. This is done by fastening the two fore-feet together by a lariat or *hobble* in such a manner that the animal cannot take steps of more than six or ten inches at a time. Crafty mules, however, find means of overcoming this impediment to swift locomotion, so, for greater safety, they are **SIDE LINED** (*q.v.*).

**HOBBLE BUSH** (*Viburnum lantanoides*).—A long, trailing bush, found in the Northern States. Other popular names are **TANGLE-LEGS** and **WAY-FARING**.

**HO-BOY OR HAUT BOY**.—A New York night scavenger.

**HOCK**.—**TO BE CAUGHT IN HOCK** is a fate which befalls simpletons who venture into the toils of card sharpers; *i.e.*, they are fleeced. The odds are invariably largely in favor of the operator, and the victim has hearty cause for congratulation if he escapes loss. Amongst the fraternity, *to be in hock* signifies that a grateful country is providing free board and lodging.

**HOE-CAKE**.—A roughly prepared cake of Indian meal, either baked before the fire, or on a hoe—hence the name.

Snake baked a HOE-CAKE,  
Left a frog to watch it;  
Frog went to sleep,  
Lizard come and catch it.

—Virginia Negro Song.

**HOE-DOWN**.—A noisy, riotous dance, peculiar to negro entertainments and gatherings.

**HOG** is invariably used in the States in preference to "pig" or "swine," as in England. — **TO HOG** is to appropriate greedily and selfishly, after the manner in which swine feed. In England an excessively greedy person is said to be "hoggish."

On the other hand, however, if the crook is obstinate enough to hog it all, or, as sometimes happens, he goes on a bender and blows in all the money, gets drunk and loses it, or is in turn robbed of it, as, by the irony of fate has sometimes happened, or lets the object of his affections coax it all out of him, the agent will pounce on him and turn him over to the police. — *Orange Journal*, April 16, 1887.

No quantity is left in Illinois but Senator Cullum, and the public has not taken favorably to his name ever since his railroad bill turned out to be a rather selfish scheme of the railroads, to hog whatever there was in the business for themselves. — *Daily Inter-Ocean*, March 13, 1888.

— **HOGG** (Cant). — A ten cent piece (about 5d.); in Old English cant a *hog* is a shilling. — **HOG-AGE**. — The period between boyhood and manhood. — **HOG BACKS**. — The use of this term for long, flat-ridged hills is not unknown in England, as, *e.g.*, the *Hog's Back* which extends from Guildford to Farnham, in Surrey; in the Western States, however, the term is applied generically to such elevations, and in that respect the usage is peculiarly American.

— **HOG CHOKE**. — In North Carolina a species of flounder. — **HOG FISH** (*Etheostoma caprodes*). — A denizen of the waters of Western rivers. — **HOG GUESSING**. — Guessing the weight of a selected hog, the nearest guesser taking the animal as a prize. The sport is conducted like a raffle. Peculiar to Long Island. — **HOG AND**



HOMINY.—A dish of pork and Indian corn. (See HOMINY.) *Hog and hominy* is an alliterative Southernism.—HOG IN ARMOUR (Cant).—

A Jack-in-office; one who blusters.—HOG IN TOGS.—A well-dressed loafer.—HOG MINDER.—A swineherd.—HOG PLUM (*Ximenia americana*).—A tall growing bush found in South Florida, the fruit of which is in size and shape like a plum, and pleasant to the palate.

—HOG RANCH.—A ranch where special attention is given to the raising of swine.—HOG REEVE.—This is the title given in New England to the local officer, whose duty it is to impound stray pigs. The raising of swine is far more prevalent in America among small holders than is the case among English agricultural laborers.—HOG TIGHT AND HORSE HIGH.—This phrase, applied to fencing, explains itself. It is a Southern expression, and is generally used as printed, in the same way that in England a thing would be said to be sound, "lock, stock, and barrel," and not "lock and stock," or "lock and barrel" alone.—HOG WALLOW.—Very similar to BUFFALO WALLOW (*q.v.*). These depressions of the Western and South-western prairies have every appearance of having been formed by the wallowing of swine. In reality they are caused by the heavy torrential rains falling on land parched and cracked by long drought, and which form a rapid succession of little hillocks and valleys about a foot high and deep.

By Villa Franca, Tonnere, venerable Sens, Melun, Fontainebleau, and scores of other beautiful cities, we swept, always noting the absence of HOG - WALLOWS, broken fences, cowlots, unpainted houses, and mud; and always noting, as well, the presence of cleanliness, grace, taste in adorning and beautifying, even to the disposition of a tree or the turning of a hedge.—*Mark Twain's Innocents Abroad*.

—HOG WASH.—A New Orleans term for bad whiskey and spirits generally.

HOISTING (Cant).—Holding a man up by his heels, so that his money, watch, and valuables fall to the ground upon which the operators "take," but do not "steal" it—at least so these gentry aver.

HOLDEN.—The old participle *holden* for "held," like "gotten" for got, is still colloquial in the States.—TO HOLD FOR.—"To hold for trial," *i.e.*, to detain in custody while awaiting trial.

The cause came up, was heard on an application for a writ of *habeas corpus*, before Judge Kline, one of the Associates of Schuylkill County; and all the defendants were **HELD FOR** and sent to Columbia County jail to await trial.—*Pinkerton's Mollie Maguires*.

—HOLD OVER.—A place of detention for prisoners awaiting trial. This is also sometimes called the **HOLD-OVER CELL**.

The bulk of the testimony showed that Irwin had fired first, and that Wilson was on the defence when he mortally wounded his assailant. When Mr. Dierkes reached this conclusion Wilson was released from the **HOLD OVER**, where he has been held since Irwin's death.—*Missouri Republican*, Feb. 24, 1883.

—TO HOLD OVER ONE is to have an advantage in some way or other. This particular usage probably comes from poker phraseology.

You ruther **HOLD OVER** me, pard. I reckon I can't call that hand, Ante and pass the buck.—*Mark Twain's The Innocents at Home*, p. 18.

—TO HOLD UP.—A man or train is *held up* when stopped and robbed. The term is new, and is probably derived from the "*Hold up your hands*" of Western brigands, who became known as **HOLD-UPS**, the transition to the

verb to *hold up* to signify violent robbery being easy enough.

W. R. Shotwell, formerly well known in Ouray, and a member of the lodge here, was mortally shot by *HOLD-UPS*, Tuesday night. The following dispatch to Rev. O. E. Ostensoo, secretary of I.O.O.F., of Ouray, explains itself:—'El Paso, Tex., February 14, 1888.—Bro. W. R. Shotwell was mortally wounded by robbers to-night. Can you give us any of his relatives' address. He is in the hands of I.O.O.F. Wire me if any information.—Z. F. Terrell, N.G.'—*The Solid Muldoon (Ouray), Colorado*.

It then dawned upon the passengers that the train had been *HELD UP*. One of the two men who had boarded the baggage-car appeared on the tender of the engine when three miles out of Stein's Pass.—*Missouri Republican*, February 24, 1888.

Martin Murphy was held to the Criminal Court, by Justice C. J. White, yesterday morning for robbery. Murphy *HELD UP* Frank Jones, on the corner of Harrison and Desplaines streets, two weeks ago, and got his watch.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, March 23, 1888.

**HOLE IN THE WALL.**—A resort in Washington of bibulously inclined M.C.'s (Members of Congress). At one time it became necessary to prohibit "guzzling" at the Capitol, and the *hole in the wall* near by furnished thirsty souls with a convenient trysting place. Later, however, the favorite appellation was *THE HOLE IN THE SKY*.

**HOLIBUT.**—The Halibut. American usage is more correct than the English, the real name being *Holy But*.—Refer to Phillips' *World of Words*.

**HOLLOO, TO.**—A perverted signification attaches to this verb in Western districts, where it is employed as the equivalent of to abandon; to leave; to quit. For example, a man *hollers* on vice, when he abandons its practice. The term has been traced to the prize-ring, where a fallen adversary crying out, by so doing yields or gives up the fight.

**HOLP, HOLPED, HOLPEN.**—The last-named is the old participle of "help." This, however, is less frequently heard than the other archaic forms. Amongst Southern negroes the corruption *holped*, itself the preterite of the mongrel "*holp*," is frequent.

**HOME.**—(1) In the West Indies, British America, and indeed all English-speaking Colonies, *home* is used familiarly in referring to the Mother Country. When Colonists speak of going *home*, they invariably mean taking a trip to England. This of course does not apply so much to the people of the United States, save in those cases where the change of residence from one country to another has been comparatively recent. The expression is a very old one, and probably dates back to the earliest days of English colonization.—(2) In such expressions as "at *home*," the preposition is often omitted, and one would say in asking after friends, "How's all *home*." A similar curiosity is the way "to" is used for "at;" e.g., "How's all to *home*."

Slocomb recalled now, that when she said she lived to *HUM* there was really a very pleasant sparkle in her eye.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

I know wy sentinuls air sot; you ain't agoin' to eat us;  
Caleb hain't no monopoly to court the seenoreetas;  
My folks to *HUM* air full ez good ez hisn be, by golly!

—*Biglow Papers*.

Conversely the proposition is often inserted where no necessity exists for its presence. A very good example of this occurs in Irwin Russell's inimitable poem, *Christmas Night in the Quarters*, a medley which laughed its way across the continent.

Git yo' pardners, fust kwattillion !  
 Stomp yo' feet, an' raise 'em high;  
 Tune is: 'Oh, dat water-million !'  
 Gwine to git to HOME bime-by.

S'lute yo' pardners ! scrape perlately—  
 Don't be bumpin' 'gin de res';  
 Balance all ! now, step out rightly;  
 Allus dunce yo' 'lebbel bes'.

**HOMESTEAD LAW.**—The Homestead Act of 1862 was, perhaps, the most beneficial and far-reaching in its wisdom ever passed by Congress. By it every citizen, native or naturalized, is able to acquire a home farm of 160 acres, the sole condition being five years' residence upon the property, subject, of course, to something being done in the way of improvement, *i.e.*, cultivation. The most important provision of this Act, however, is the absolute exemption of the homestead from forced sale for debt save the purchase-money. As the latter merely consists of certain moderate registration and other fees, the exemption is practically absolute; and after five years' residence the General Land Office in Washington will grant a title. Experience has shown that in the majority of cases—always, of course, ruling out of court speculative holders—so rapid is the advance in value of land, when once settled on, that from forty to fifty per cent. of those who enter under the provisions of the *Homestead Law*, expecting to receive a gratuitous deed, prefer to pay for the land, rather than wait the five years necessary for the consummation of their titles. By this measure, and more particularly its exemption clause, the people of the United States have recognised, and, as far as possible given effect to, what have been called the three fundamental rights of every man, woman, and child born into this world, *viz.*: good food, good clothing, good homes. To their honor be it said, the American people

have for ever put behind their backs the possible recurrence, in the New World, of the evils of landlordism as exemplified in the Old. The principle of the *Homestead Law* is that the family being the unit of society, the basis of civilization and the foundation of the Republic, it becomes necessary as a matter of policy, and for the good order of society, as well as a matter of public economy, to save as far as possible the homes of the people from becoming broken up and destroyed, either by debt or by taxation. It is further held that the obligation resulting from the contract of marriage, wherein the man agrees to support his wife and his children, and to furnish to them a shelter, is not only prior in point of time to the debts of creditors, but it is an obligation more sacred than any other which a man can assume; and, therefore, the law, as well as the courts who administer it, should always maintain the priority and the superior equity and sacredness of the contract of marriage over and above all other contracts which may be entered into. The limit of exemption varies in different States. By the laws of Illinois a homestead is exempted from forced sale for debt to the value of 1,000 dols., while in Wisconsin, by the constitution and laws of that State, the homestead is exempted to the value of 5,000 dols. In connection with this subject, *see* PRE-EMPTION.

**HOMINY.**—A staple preparation of Indian corn, the grains of which are coarsely ground and boiled, though sometimes they are cooked whole. *Hominy* seems to be of Indian derivation from *ahuminea*.

**HOMMOCK.**—In the everlades or fresh water swamps of Florida, *hommock* is the name given to small eleva-



tions or islands. This word must not be confounded with HAMMOCK (*q.v.*).

**HONDou.**—The slip-knot of a lariat. This is probably from the Spanish *honda*, the eye of a needle.

**HONEST INJUN!**—An exclamation of address, employed very much as "old man" is familiarly used in England when the person addressed is by no means of mature age. Though the reference to Indian honesty was at first a sarcastic allusion to the red man's thievish propensities, now, when used as a form of address, nothing derogatory is implied.

**HONEY.**—A good fellow; one who commands admiration and respect. —(Cant). A generic name for money.

'It's a great day for Dave,' said one enthusiastic Democrat, 'and I've got money that no one can name the man that will beat him in the race for the governorship. He has driven a long spike in his political opponent's coffin, whoever he may be. Dave is a HONEY.'—*Missouri Republican*, February 24, 1888.

—To HONEY.—To cajole with soft words or promises.

Notice! Persons indebted to the Tuscaloosa bookstore are respectfully solicited to pay their last year's account forthwith. It is of no use to HONEY; payments must be made at least once a year, or I shall run down at the heels. I have not spare change enough to buy myself a shirt or a pair of breeches. My wife is now actually engaged in turning an old pair wrongside-out, and trying to make a new shirt out of two old ones. Come, come, pay up, my friends! keep peace in the family, and enable me to wear my breeches right-side-out.—*Tuscaloosa News*, 1888.

—To HONEY-FUGGLE or HONEY-FOGLE.—To swindle; to cheat; or to humbug.

Just as the hilarity was at its best, an admirer of Judge Noonan, also somewhat

under the domination of the rosy, caught sight of that eminent jurist, and coming to him wreathed himself lovingly about his honor. Noonan's companion objected to this public HONEY-FUGLING by knocking the demonstrative stranger down.—*Missouri Republican*, January 26, 1888.

—HONEY LOCUST (*Gleditsia triacanthus*).—The THORNY LOCUST of the West and South, the latter name being given on account of its numerous and large thorns.

—HONEYSUCKLE.—This plant (the *Azalea viscosa*) is far removed from kinship with the English honeysuckle.

**HONORABLE.**—This title in America is given to Members of Congress, and American representatives at foreign courts, and a few other Government officials.

**HOODLUM.**—A young rough. The term originated in San Francisco, but is now general throughout the Union.

They were met by three young HOODLUMS, who jostled against the young lady, and made the most disgusting remarks concerning her.—*Missouri Republican*, April 1, 1888.

John Mulroy was arrested yesterday on a warrant charging him with assault to kill his father, Patrick Mulroy. The boy is a HOODLUM, who had often threatened that he would kill his father should that parent ever attempt to punish him.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, February 15, 1888.

—Hence also HOODLUMISM.

An exhibition of HOODLUMISM of the most aggravated type was given last evening on car No. 61 of the Market Street line.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, April 2, 1888.

**HOODY-DOODY** (Cant).—A short stumpy person.

**HOOK JACK, To.**—A New England boy's term for playing truant.

**HOOPLE.**—A hoop as used by children. This name is of Dutch descent, and is still used in New York.

**HOOSIER, HOOSIER STATE.**—A *hoosier* is a native of the State of Indiana. The origin of this, as of many nicknames, is lost in mystery. One account is that the citizens of this State are proverbially inquisitive, and gruff in speech, and that their nickname was bestowed on them because they never could pass a house without pulling the latch-string, and crying out, "Who's here?" This fanciful derivation, however, may probably be dismissed with scant consideration, although Kentuckians insist that it is a true one. Another account is that given by a correspondent of the *Providence Journal*; he says:—"Throughout all the Western settlements were men who rejoiced in their physical strength, and on numerous occasions, at log-rollings and house-raising, demonstrated this to their entire satisfaction. They were styled by their fellow-citizens *hushers*, from their primary capacity to still their opponents. It was a common term for a bully throughout the West. The boatmen of Indiana were formerly as rude and as primitive a set as could well belong to a civilized country, and they were often in the habit of displaying their pugilistic accomplishments upon the levee at New Orleans. Upon a certain occasion there, one of these rustic professors of the 'noble art' very adroitly and successfully practised the 'fancy' upon several individuals at one time. Not being a native of the Western world, in the exuberance of his exultation he sprang up, exclaiming, in foreign accent, 'I'm a *hoosier*, I'm a *hoosier*.' Some of the New Orleans papers reported the case, and afterwards transferred the corruption of the epithet 'husher' (*hoosier*) to all the boatmen from Indiana, and from thence to all citizens." This

explanation, it is possible, may be regarded as hardly more satisfactory. When, however, we come to deal with the *hoosier's* manner of speech we pitch upon less debatable ground. J. H. Beadle, in his *Western Wilds*, furnishes data in respect to what he calls the *hoosier* language, which he says he spoke in his childhood, and of which no grammar has ever been published. Before it becomes extinct, therefore, it may be as well to fix a few of its idioms. It abounds in negatives held to strengthen the sentence. "Don't know nothing" is common. "See here," says a native, looking for work, to the farmer, "You don't know o' nobody what don't want to hire nobody to do nothin' around here don't you." But it is in the verb to do that the *hoosier* tongue is most effective. Here is the ordinary conjugation. *Present tense*: regular as in English. *Imperfect*: I, you, he done it; we, you, they uns done it. *Perfect*: I, you, he gone done it; we, you, they uns gone done it. *Pluperfect*: I, you, he, etc., bin gone done it, etc. *First future*: I, you, he, etc., gwine to do it. *Second future*: I gwine to gone done it, etc. *Plural*: We, you, they uns gwine to gone done it, etc. Philologically this language is the result of a union between the rude translations of "Pennsylvania Dutch," the negroisms of Kentucky and Virginia, and certain phrases native to the Ohio valley. —**HOOSIER CAKE.**—A coarse kind of gingerbread, so called, say the Kentuckians (between whom and *Hoosiers* a friendly rivalry has always existed), because the inhabitants of Indiana—the *Hoosier State*—are very partial to it. Therefore, say they, if you want to catch a *Hoosier* give the biped *hoosier-cake*. —**HOOSIERDOM.**—The State of Indiana.

**HOOTER.**—When a thing is "not worth a *hooter*," the meaning is that it is of no account; not worth an iota. *Hooter* is probably a corruption of "iota."

**HOPINE.**—A name given to malt-liquor, which, for all practical purposes, is genuine beer, but which is so called to evade the provisions of the Prohibition Act. Iowa is one of the so-called Prohibition States, a fact which will explain the following quotation:—

We don't get beer, precisely, but they sell a drink out there called *HOPINE*, which experts can't tell from beer, but the sale of which is not a violation of the liquor law, so the jury of which I was foreman decided one day last month, so you needn't waste any sympathy on us Iowa teetotalers.  
—*Texas Siftings*, 1888.

**HOPKINS.**—DON'T HURRY, HOPKINS!  
—Used ironically in the West in speaking to persons who are very slow in their work, or tardy in meeting an obligation. It is said to have originated from the case of one *Hopkins*, who, having given one of his creditors a promissory note in regular form, added to it this extraordinary memorandum:—It is expressly agreed, that the said *Hopkins* is not to be hurried in paying the above note.

**HOPPER.**—(1) A railway coach of particular shape.—(2) A contracted form of "grasshopper."

**HOPPING JOHN.**—A South Carolinian dish of bacon and peas stewed with red pepper.

**HOPPING-MAD.**—Very angry.

**HOP TREE** (*Ptelia trifoliata*).—A name given in the Eastern States to a shrub, the seed clusters of which are used as a bitter.

**HORK, TO** (Cant).—To listen; to hear. Evidently a corruption of "to hearken."

**HORN.**—A measure for spirits, as "a horn of whiskey," *i.e.*, a "dram" or "nip."

I don't know whether Mark took a drop or not; but they generally keep a barrel of old rye in the lumber shanties, and my opinion is that he was invited to take a HORN.—*Hammond's Wild Northern Scenes*, p. 198.

—**HORN BUG.**—The stag beetle.

—**IN A HORN.**—A slang phrase equivalent to the English "over the left shoulder"; both are *sotte voce* saving clauses to false assertions. Plain folk call such mis-statements by a severe name—lies.—**THE LITTLE END OF THE HORN.**—The mountain bringing forth a mouse is the prototype of those who come out at the *little end of the horn*; who make much ado about nothing, and whose vast endeavors end in failure. The allusion is to the "Horn of Plenty," one end of which tapers to a point.

**HORNED GREBE.**—A species of dipper.

**HORNED POUT.**—The CATFISH (*q.v.*).

**HORNED SUCKER** (*Catostomus storer*).—A fish which is also called the CHUB SUCKER.

**HORNESS** (Cant).—A watchman.

**HORNSWOGGLE.**—A Western creation, signifying nonsense, foolery, or chaffing deception. Variants are SKULDUGGERY and SHENANIGAN.

**HORSE.**—That, of all the dumb creation, the horse is *par excellence* the friend of man, no one recognizes more fully than the Western backwoodsman. Some of the boldest



of his metaphors, and the most touching tributes of praise, are drawn from this source. These expressions, originating for the most part in frontier life, have quickly spread throughout the Union, and become part and parcel of the every-day speech of all classes, more especially as there exists, among Americans as a people, a passionate love of horses. A near and dear friend, an old companion, or men and women, whose traits of character command respect and homage, are familiarly *horses*. It is related that a distinguished Kentuckian on one occasion, when carried away by enthusiasm at Miss Kemble's acting, started abruptly to his feet, and with tremendous energy roared out, "By heaven she's a *horse*." Far from this being considered a rude thing to say of a lady, it is the highest compliment that can be paid her; inasmuch as, a fine horse being one of the grandest and most beautiful objects on earth, so, in comparison, more genuine praise or a higher appreciation of personal qualities cannot be expressed. Amongst the ruder sort, the phrase affectionately becomes *OLD HOSS*, and a man is apt to speak of himself as *THIS HORSE*.

Here, boys, drink. Liquors, captain, for the crowd. Step up this way, *OLD HOSS*, and liquor.—*Gladstone's Englishman in Kansas*, p. 43.

Thar was old Sam Owins,—him as got rubbed up by the Spaniards at Sacramento or Chihuahua, *THIS HOSS* doesn't know which, but he went under any how.—*Ruxton's Life in the Far West*.

In the same connection of metaphor we get *HORSE-SENSE*, and he who possesses it is regarded by his fellows as sound in judgment and practical in method.

He wasn't loony on a bargain, sir, no indeed; and he had plenty of hard *HORSE-SENSE*, and took good care of his property.—*Putnam's Magazine*.

—Combined with this love of *horses* is another prominent quality of the American. He regards driving a single horse as poor fun indeed; on the contrary, he likes to drive a whole team. Hence anything strikingly small or mean he characterizes as *ONE HORSE*, and so dubs anything and anybody from a church to a bank, and from a governor to a bailiff, of which or of whom he has but a poor opinion. Thus we get *one-horse* towns, *one-horse* lawyers, and *one-horse* oaths—the "euphemistic" blasphemies, which do duty for really genuine and honest outbursts.

Ah, it was a great loss—it was a powerful loss to this poor little *ONE-HORSE* town.—*Mark Twain's Screemers*.

—*HORSE* is also current in the Old English sense of a plank support or trestle.

A long table was now spread, eked out by boards laid upon carpenter's *HORSES*, and this was covered by a variety of table cloths, all shining clean, however, and carefully disposed.—*A. Quilting*, 1873.

—*HORSE AND HORSE*, a variant of "neck and neck," *i.e.*, even.—*HORSE-BARN*.—A stable.—*HORSE-BOAT*.—A kind of ferry-boat sometimes met with in Western waters, the propelling power of which is a horse; sometimes also called a *HORSE-FERRY*.—*HORSE-CARS*.—*Tram-cars*.—*HORSE-FOOT* (*Limulus polyphemus*).—The king crab of England; the popular name is derived from its supposed resemblance to a horse-shoe. This crustacean is very plentiful in American waters.—*HOLD YOUR HORSES?* is a slang phrase signifying willingness to undertake a task or commission for another.—*HORSE-MACKEREL*.—This is the popular name in Massachusetts for the *BLUE-FISH* (*q.v.*).—*HORSE-MIL-LINER*.—A saddler and harness maker. This odd name can, in

reality, claim ancient usage, dating back as far as the sixteenth century. Sir W. Scott also, in his *Heart of Midlothian* (ch. xii.), makes Bartoline Saddletree say: "Whereas, in my wretched occupation of a saddler, horse-milliner and harness maker."

—HORSE-MINT (*Monarda punctata*).—This is given by Webster as a large species of mint found from New York southward.—HORSE-NETTLE (*Solanum carolinense*).—A poisonous weed with orange-yellow berries.—HORSE-RAILROAD, a tramway. — HORSE-SHOE. — See HORSE-FOOT, for which this is but another name.

**HORSE-CAPPERS.**—Horse swindlers, whose trick is generally to dispose of a worthless animal at a price far above its value.

**HOSTILES.**—A Western term for enemies.

**HOT** (Cant).—When a thief gets too well known in any locality, he says it is getting *hot* for him. An English equivalent is "high-rented."

**HOT-SLAW.**—Minced cabbage, pickled in vinegar and made hot.—See KOOL-SLAW.

**HOUNDS.**—(1) In the old slavery days, men who hunted for and caught runaway negroes.—(2) A gang of San Franciscan ruffians. Also called REGULATORS.

**HOURLY.**—An old obsolete Boston term for an omnibus—probably from the vehicles making a journey at intervals of an hour.

**HOUSE.**—In the sense of a store place, *house* is more frequently compounded with other words than

in England. Thus a larder becomes a MEAT-HOUSE, a laundry a WASH-HOUSE, and a dairy a MILK-HOUSE, etc.—HOUSE-CAR.—A closed car; a BOX-CAR (*q.v.*). —To HOUSE-KEEP.—To keep house, a form of comparatively recent introduction.—HOUSEN STUFF, *i.e.*, household furniture.—THE HOUSE.—A shortened form for The House of Representatives, just as "The House" in England always means the House of Commons.—HOUSE-HOLDRY.—Household employment. A new form.—HOUSEN.—An old form for the plural of "house." This is still heard in some parts, notably the Southern States.—HOUSE TO LET.—A slang expression for a widow's weeds.—HOUSE RAISING.—A BEE (*q.v.*), or gathering of people in a thinly settled part, to enable new comers to build a house. These working parties, when the task was finished, usually wound up with feasting and merrymaking.

Drunkenness has greatly decreased in this country during the last fifty years. Any of my hearers who are as old as I, will remember that time when almost everyone drank, from Maine to Louisiana. Church members, deacons, and even preachers drank; that no business or social gathering took place at which the bottle was not passed round. That HOUSE-RAISINGS, log-rollings, and corn-huskings usually ended in drunken frolics, and militia musters were nearly always finished in the same way.—*Missouri Republican*, March 8, 1888.

—HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—Generally shortened to THE HOUSE.—See under HOUSE.

**HOVE.**—The old preterite of "to heave." Like most of these old forms, it is mainly heard in New England and the South.

**HOW?**—A New Englander's equivalent for What? and used very much as a Frenchman would employ

*comment*? when asking for a repetition of what he has failed to understand, or it may be of what he wishes to hear once more before he gives an answer.—How COME?—A negroism for "How did it occur?" "How came that about?"—How IS THAT FOR HIGH?—See HIGH.—How YOU TALK.—A New England exclamation which may mean surprise, approbation, or, indeed, any emotion whatsoever.—How ARE YOU, JOHNNIE?—A familiar mode of address, first used by soldiers during the Civil War.

**HUB.**—A heap on a road, or a projection on a mountain. In this sense *hub* is specially American.—THE HUB or THE HUB OF THE UNIVERSE is the grandiloquent title given by Oliver Wendall Holmes to the City of Boston.—See also CLASSIC CITY.—Bostonians are called HUBBITES.

The Boston Girl is the subject of yet another special feature of *The Sunday Globe* to-morrow. The typical girl of THE HUB has been much written about in the novels of the period, and without doubt she is worth all the attention bestowed upon her.—*Boston Daily Globe*, 1888.

**HUBBUB** (Cant).—A pain in the stomach.

**HUCKLEBERRY.**—A kind of blackberry. Formerly the popular name for this fruit was whortleberry.—TO BE A HUCKLEBERRY ABOVE ONE'S PERSIMMON is a quaint Southern phrase, meaning that something apparently simple and easy, is far above the ability of the person making the attempt.

**HUE.**—"Hue him," *i.e.*, lash him! A thief's term.

**HUEY.**—In American pugilistic slang *Huey* represents the *National Police Gazette* published in New York.

**HUG, TO** (Cant).—To choke.—HUGGING THE HOOKER, *i.e.*, choking the thief.

**HUGGER-MUGGER, TO.**—(1) To hush up; to smother.

Come, Mr. Cleveland, order your Secretary of State to make public that British extradition treaty which he and the Senate have so carefully HUGGER-MUGGERED for more than eighteen months. If it is all right, publicity can do no harm. If it is wrong, publicity is necessary. Publicity is Democratic. Secrecy about the people's business is aristocratic. This is a Democratic administration. Give the people a sight of the British treaty.—*New York Herald, Ind.*, 1888.

—(2) To take secret counsels; to act clandestinely; secretly. *Hugger-mugger* was used by Shakespeare in this sense.

**HULLED CORN.**—Indian corn, which is husked by being scalded. It then enters into the composition of many palatable dishes.

**HULY.**—A New England term for a noise or uproar.

**HUM.**—TO MAKE THINGS HUM is to be expert in one's affairs; "to look alive." The metaphor is from the bee, that insect being regarded as the emblem of untiring activity and restless industry.

Young Mr. Hearst studied at Harvard and is gifted with a great deal of ability. He is tall, fair and well formed, and exceedingly gentle and modest in his manners. Ever since he has taken the newspaper reins in San Francisco he has MADE THINGS HUM.—*San Francisco Weekly Examiner*, February 23, 1888.

—In another sense TO HUM AROUND is to "call over the coals"; "to bring to account."—HUMMER.—A lively, industrious worker; one who does not let the grass grow under his feet. Other slang equivalents are RUSTLER; LALA; ONE WHO HAS NO FLIES ON



HIM. (See FLIES.) In thieves' parlance a *hummer* is a big lie.

HUMAN.—A *human* for a human being, and its plural *humans* are forms over which many battles philological have been waged. Though colloquial in America they have not made much headway in England, and, it is to be hoped, never will. It must be remarked, however, that Chapman and other writers of his period (xvi and xvii centuries) use them.

A familiar figure is gone from the streets of Glenwood Springs. The figure walked on four legs and didn't talk politics. He was only a dog, but he knew more than some men and was much more useful to society than many HUMANS.—*Denver Republican*, 1888.

HUM BIRD OR HUMMER. — Popular names of the humming bird, chiefly the *Trochilus colubris*.

HUM BOX.—This term, which in England has for a very long time stood for a pulpit amongst thieves and their associates, is, in America, applied by the same class of people to an auctioneer's desk.

HUMILITY.—The marbled godwit—a frequenter of the fens and river banks of New England.

HUMMOCK.—See HOMMOCK.

HUMPHREY (Cant).—A coat with false pockets; the better to facilitate thieving operations.

HUMP ONESELF, TO.—To bestir oneself; to be expeditious.

It was curious to see the stenographer begin to HUMP himself as the flood of Senator Jones' wild, untrammelled oratory came thicker and faster, and tumbled over itself until the writer's body was out of his chair. At last Senator Jones closed his verbal gatling-gun practice with a last word, like a last bullet, and two seconds later the shorthand

man sank back in his chair exhausted but triumphant. He had got there. It will take something worse even than Jones, if that is possible, to beat a Congressional stenographer.—*Detroit Free Press*, May, 1888.

Society is HUMPING itself in anticipation of Lent. It is to be sincerely hoped it will not be laid out by the effort.—*Omaha Journal*, 1888.

—HUMP YOURSELF is a frequently heard injunction to "be sharp!" "look alive!" In England, "got the *hump*" bears an entirely different meaning.

HUNG BEEF.—Dried beef; so named from its being cured by hanging. Also called CHIP BEEF.

HUNK.—TO BE HUNK, *i.e.*, all safe. From the Dutch *honk*, a home, a place.—HUNKERS or OLD HUNKERS.—Also derived from the Dutch *honk*. A local political term, originating in New York in 1844, to designate the Conservative Democrats as opposed to the YOUNG DEMOCRACY or BARN BURNERS (*q.v.*). The *Hunkers* themselves clung to the homestead or old principles, but unkind critics insisted that it rather meant a clinging to a large *hunk* of the spoils of office.—Hence HUNKERISM.

HUNKEY, HUNKIDORI. — Both these strange words stand in "The Great American Language" for "superlatively good."

'I am truly glad to hear from my young friend. I suppose Robert has entirely regained his health?'

'Robert is all HUNKEY, but he had a mighty close call the week before last.'—*Texas Siftings*, October 20, 1888.

HUNTING SHIRT.—A deerskin, blouse-like garment, in use amongst trappers and frontiersmen. It is very durable, and is sometimes very ornamental.

HURRA'S NEST.—A state of confusion.

**HURRYGRAPH.**—A hastily written letter. From "to hurry," and *grapho*, I write.

**HURRYMENT.**—A Southern phrase for hurry or confusion.

**HUSBANDHOOD.**—The state of being a husband. Compare with wifehood.

**HUSH (Cant).**—A murder.

**HUSKING BEE, OR HUSKING.**—Farmers in New England, when the harvest had been gathered, were in the habit of inviting neighbors and friends to help in *husking* the corn. The work was quickly executed by the many willing hands, and was followed by merry-making, dancing, etc.

I have seen enough boldness used by a parcel of girls at one *HUSKIN'* or apple-cut, to supply four presidential elections.—*Betsy Bobbet*, p. 290.

To this 'ere time, to put it nice,  
There was nothin' wuth declarin',  
'Cept I'd kissed her onct or twice,  
At a *HUSKIN'* or a parin'.

—*Century Magazine*, 1888.

—In the South and West the same process is called "shucking."

**HUSS-BRAN.**—An Indiana name for a COB.

**HUSTLE, To.**—Used actively and passively. To be active in movement, quick in speech, and generally alive at all points. A Snapping Shoals (Ga.) colored preacher, is reported to have once said from the pulpit: "I was once young; I is now old. I hab neber seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging ob bread. But," he said, laying the book down, and raising his specs, "I've seen them *hustle* like the debble for meat." — As illustrating the meaning of *hustle*, the following graphic picture of the

"Hustling Shopper" may, perhaps, be quoted:—

Tramp, tramp, tramp!

With the morning clocks at ten,  
She skimmed the street, with foot-steps fleet,

And *hustled* the timid men;

Tramp, tramp, tramp!

She entered the dry-goods' store,

And with echoing tread the dance she led

All over the crowded floor.

She charged the throng where the bargains were,

And everybody made way for her;

Wherever she saw a painted sign

She made for that spot a prompt bee line;

Whatever was old, or whatever was new,

She had it down, and she looked it through;

Whatever it was that caught her eye,

She'd stop and price, and pretend to buy.

But 'twas either too bad, too common, or good,

So she did, and she wouldn't, and didn't, and would,

And round the counters and up the stairs,

In attic and basement and everywhere;

The salesmen fainted, and cash boys dropped,

But still she shopped, and shopped, and shopped,

And round, and round, and round, and round,

Like a winding toy, with a key that's wound,

She'd weave and wriggle, and twist about,

One way in and the other way out,

Till men grew giddy to see her go,

And by-and-bye, when the sun was low,

Homeward she dragged her weary way,  
And had sent home the spoils of the day—  
A spool of silk and a hank of thread—  
Eight hours—ten cents—and a dame half dead.

—From the verb is derived the noun **HUSTLER**, an active busy individual; one who, in American slang, "has no flies on him." Among the innumerable synonyms may be mentioned, "rustler," or, to make it clearer, a "lala," still further interpreted, a "daisy," or to use other language, a "hummer," or "just about as smart as they make 'em."

**HYPANTOL.**—The complaint of the *malade imaginaire*.

**HYPER, TO.**—To bustle.

**HYPPO.**—A contraction of hypochondriac; and hence — **HYPOCY**, suffering from melancholy. In England, the equivalent is hyped.

**HYST.**—A severely rapid fall. Said to come from "hoist," in which case an inversion of meaning has taken place, and the elevation is "downwards."







**ICE.**—A BIG THING ON ICE.—This frequently heard catch-phrase is synonymous with magnitude of size combined, in cases where human volition forms a factor, with calm coolness of action. It is generally curtailed in writing and speaking to B.T.I. (*q.v.*).

**ICE-BOAT.**—*Ice-boating* is an exhilarating winter pastime, which, of necessity, can only be enjoyed by those who live in Northern regions, and upon stretches of water such as are furnished by the St. Lawrence and other large rivers.

The ICE-BOAT is a kind of yacht on skates. In construction it is a mere skeleton, weighing pounds where an ordinary yacht would weigh tons. The main timbers in an ICE-BOAT are arranged in the form of the letter T, the perpendicular line of the letter representing the centre timber, which runs from the foot of the mast to the stern of the boat. The horizontal line of the letter may stand for the runner plank, on each end of which is a large skate, called a runner. At the junction of the centre timber and the runner plank is the mast bench, which acts as a socket for the mast. From the aftermost end of the centre timber side-rails run diagonally to points about half-way between the masts and the ends of the runner plank. One or two braces cross the centre timber from one side-rail to the other. Mortised into the forward end of the centre timber is the heel of the bowsprit. The outlines of the boat when completed are diamond shaped. The correct proportions of a typical ICE-BOAT are as follows:—Centre timber, 26 feet 9 inches; length over all, including bowsprit, 50 feet 10 inches; runner planks, 19 feet 3 1-2 inches; sail area, 538 1-2 square feet; cost, slightly less than £100. Ice sailing has been known in Europe for several

centuries, but on the inland lakes and streams of the Northern United States and Canada, Maine, Vermont, New York, Ohio, Michigan and Illinois, the pastime has become so popular, and has attained such dimensions, as to substantiate its claim to rank as a distinctively American sport. On the Hudson the speed attained is marvellous. In 1879 the 'Lucile' sailed from Poughkeepsie to New Hamburg, a distance of nine miles, in seven minutes and ten seconds. The 'Snow Flake' has made the same distance in seven minutes. In 1882 the 'Haze' accomplished the same feat, and at one time in her flight made two miles in one minute. In 1879 the 'Comet,' 'Phantom,' 'Zephyr,' and 'Magic' sailed together ten miles in ten minutes, and most of the time with their windward runners elevated at an angle of 45 degrees, on account of the brisk wind. It is said that a gentleman residing at Poughkeepsie wished to speak to his brother who had started on a train for New York. He sprang into his ICE-BOAT, passed the train, and was on the platform of the station at Newburg when it drew up.

**ICKEN.**—In the patter of low life in New York *icken* means oak, the tree itself being called ICKEN BAUM. This is evidently a corruption of the German *eiche*, an oak, *icken baum* being pleonastic.

**I DAD.**—An exclamation of Western birth and common usage. A variant of "begad."

**IDEA-POT (Cant).**—An odd word for a man's head.

**ILE.**—"TO STRIKE ILE," is to make a hit; to be successful. The metaphor has passed into general speech from the vast wealth which suddenly and unexpectedly became the inheritance of the owners of sterile

land in Pennsylvania upon the discovery of the oil regions in that State. The industry has attained enormous proportions and the capacity of some of the wells appears well nigh inexhaustible. Oil wells have since then been discovered in many other parts.

Mr. Harte has STRUCK ILE in Chicago. At a dinner given in his honor, each guest brought five thousand dollars as his contribution to Bret Harte's new magazine.—*Philadelphia Ledger*.

**ILL.**—Two distinct perversions of meaning occur in America in connection with this word. (1) In some parts of the South-west it is used as synonymous with "vicious" or "immoral," and if a man were said to be *ill*, the idea, not of sickness, but of immorality or other vice would be conveyed; possibly on the lines that evil practices if persisted in lead more or less to sickness.—(2) In certain parts of Arkansas *ill* bears the meaning of cross or ill-tempered.

Bulah war mighty long-sufferin' with him, tendin' on him night'n day, an' runnin' the boat, too; an', in course, the baby mus' come in the thick er it! An't made me mad, seein' him so *ILL* with her.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

**ILLY.**—Randomly used by some writers who forget that "ill" is itself an adverb. One might with equal reason say "welly"; it is to be remarked, however, that some of the older English writers employ it.

Should I hear a member *ILLY* spoken of, I will espouse his cause, and convey the information to him as soon as possible for me so to do. I will obey my superior officers in everything lawful, and not otherwise. All this I do solemnly swear.—*Pinkerton's Mollie Maguires and Detectives*.

Lowell, too, has some interesting remarks anent this word.

The objection to *ILLY* is not an etymological one, but simply that it is contrary to

good usage—a very sufficient reason. *Ill* as an adverb was at first a vulgarism, precisely like the rustic's when he says, 'I was treated *bad*.' May not the reason of this exceptional form be looked for in that tendency to dodge what is hard to pronounce? If the letters were distinctly uttered, as they should be, it would take too much time to say *ILL-LY*, *well-ly*, and it is to be observed that we have avoided *smally* and *tally* in the same way, though we add *ish* to them in the same way without hesitation in *smallish* and *tallish*. We have to be sure, *aduly* and *fully*, but for the one we prefer *stupidly*, and the other (though this may have come from eliding the *y* before *as*) is giving way to *full*. The uneducated, whose utterance is slower, still make adverbs when they will by adding *like* to all manner of adjectives.—*Biglow Papers*.

**IMMENSE.**—A thing is *immense* when very good, which can hardly be said of the form of speech itself. A vulgar perversion of language, which has gained some acceptance in England also.

The afterpiece is said to be *IMMENSE*, and is called 'Scenes in Africa, or She-who-Must-be-Disobeyed,' and never fails to send all home in a good humor.—*Florida Times Union*, February 8, 1888.

**IMPORT-TAKER** (Cant).—A gambler's and black-leg's money lender. A Shylock of Shylocks. In this term cant almost touches the classical; at any rate it seems odd for men of this class to know anything about tax-paying.

**IMPUDENT** (Cant).—With some show of grace the professional appropriator of other people's property admits it to be an *impudent* thing to cut off the tails of a man's coat in order to possess himself of their contents; at least this is a thief's translation of the word.

**IN.**—FOR ALL THERE'S IN IT.—To the utmost capacity of a person or thing.

Usually the watch passes off without incident, but on rare occasions the cattle become restless and prone to stampede. Anything may then start them—the plunge of a horse,

the sudden approach of a coyote, or the arrival of some outside steers or cows that have smelt them and come up. Every animal in the herd will be on its feet in an instant, as if by an electric shock, and off with a rush, horns and tail up. Then, no matter how rough the ground, nor how pitchy black the night, the cowboys must ride FOR ALL THERE IS IN THEM, and spare neither their own nor their horses' necks.—*Roosevelt's Ranch Life in the Far West*.

**INCA.**—The chief ruler of Peru prior to the Spanish conquest.

**INCREASED.**—Explained by quotation.

'He'un had no call (business) to be jined!' sobbed Deb.

'Pore chile!' sighed the mother. 'Deb's INCREASED (very smart) fur her aige, stranger. She's lookin' higher'n most gals fur a husband. She doan' keer two twinkles fur nobody 'round yere.'—*Detroit Free Press*, September 15, 1888.

**INDEPENDENCE DAY.**—"The glorious 4th of July," as Americans are fond of calling it. On this date (1776) Congress declared the American colonies independent of kingcraft, and laid the foundations of what in the future (if it is not exactly now) may prove the true form of human Government.

**INDIAN.**—A brief account of the influence of the aborigines on the language will be found in the "Historical and Critical Introduction."

—**INDIAN BED.**—*See* CLAM-BAKE.

—**INDIAN BREAD.**—Bread composed of Indian corn and rye meal. Also known as BOSTON BREAD.

—**INDIAN CORN.**—Maize; a cereal with a large ear. The first colonist so named it because cultivated by the aborigines.—**INDIAN**

**CURRENT** (*Symphoricarbus vulgaris*).—A native of Missouri, and also called the CORAL BERRY.—**INDIAN**

**DAB.**—A Pennsylvanian battercake.—**INDIAN FIG.**—By this is

generally understood the prickly pear, although the name is also

given to the barberry fig, and to a large cactus (*Cereus giganteus*), the fruit of which in taste is not unlike the fig.—**INDIAN FILE.**—Cautious and wary in warfare and when in chase of game, the Indian in the first case effectually prevents any estimate being formed of the number comprising his band by creeping along in *single file*, thus leaving behind only a single trail. So characteristic is this of the aborigines that the practice has come to be known as *Indian file*.—**INDIAN FORTS.**—Inclosures, found in large numbers in New York and Pennsylvania, and less frequently in New England, Canada, and Virginia, occupying high bluff points or headlands, scarped on two or more sides and naturally easy of defence. When found on lower ground, they are generally raised on some dry knoll or little hill in the midst of a swamp, or where a bend in the river lends security to the position, but they stand invariably near an unfailing supply of water. The embankments are seldom over four feet high, pierced by one or more gateways, and surrounded by a ditch of some depth. It has been questioned, however, whether these fortifications belong to the present race of Indians.—**INDIAN GIFT.**—The cupidity and want of generosity of the white man when dealing with savage races have, in the case of the Indian, given rise to this term to express a gift, a return for which is expected. The so-called presents made to red-skins have involved a return, in some cases, a hundredfold in value. *Indian gifts* and *INDIAN GIVERS* have hence passed into the proverbial sayings of the American people.—**INDIAN HEMP.**—This is quoted by Bartlett and De Vere as a medicinal plant, the botanical name of which is



*Apocynum cannabinum*.—INDIAN-LADDER.—In the South a tree, the branches of which are trimmed to a few inches of the main stem, which thus form projecting substitutes for the rungs of a ladder.

—INDIAN-LIQUOR.—Colloquially, whiskey of the vilest description. The spirit supplied to Indians by traders and Government agents was, and is, invariably adulterated to the last degree, not alone with water, but with red-pepper, tobacco, and other noxious condiments.

[A correspondent of the *National Intelligencer*, once stated that] A barrel of the pure Cincinnati, even after it has run the gauntlet of railroad and lake travel, is a sufficient basis upon which to manufacture one hundred barrels of good INDIAN LIQUOR! He says a small bucketful of the Cincinnati article is poured into a wash-tub almost full of rain water; a large quantity of dog-leg tobacco and red-pepper is thrown into the tub; a bitter species of root, common in the land of the Dakota, is then cut up and added; burnt sugar or some article is used to restore something like the original color of whiskey. The compound has to be kept on hand a few days before it is fit for use. It is then administered to the aborigines *ad libitum*.

—INDIAN MEAL.—Ground maize.

—INDIAN MILLET (*Oryzopsis cuspidata*).—This is a perennial BUNCH-

GRASS (*q.v.*), growing from one to two feet high, or higher in moist situations. It is found through the Rocky Mountain region, where it thrives on soil too sandy for other valuable grasses. It is one of the most prominent of the native grasses in the arid parts of the country, but no efforts of importance have yet been made for its cultivation. The seeds are abundant, and as they do not readily shell out when ripe, they can be easily gathered.—INDIAN MOUNDS.—These are mainly the burial-places of the red man, but in some parts the name is given to any unusual contour of rising ground.—INDIAN ORCHARDS.—Plantations of wild trees are

erroneously so named in New York and Massachusetts, the popular idea being that such spaces were originally planted by Indians.—

INDIAN PEACH.—A wild peach.—

INDIAN PHYSIC (*Gillenla trifoliata*), otherwise called BOWMAN'S ROOT (*q.v.*).—

INDIAN PIPE (*Monotropa uniflora*).—A wax-like plant, the head of which bends over before maturity.—

INDIAN PUDDING.—This is made of maize-meal and molasses.—

INDIAN RESERVATION.

—Gradually the aboriginal races of America have, by the advance of the white man's civilization, been pushed farther and farther afield. This in reality has been the main cause of the many Indian wars with which the United States Government have had to deal from time to time. To obviate the conflict of races as far as possible, Congress set apart certain tracts of country throughout the Union for the special benefit and use of red men, and these are called *Indian Reservations*. With the extinction of the buffalo, however, the Indian's chief means of subsistence has disappeared, and to prevent absolute starvation, the Government have been compelled in many cases to issue rations of food and other supplies. In consequence, there is now some talk of abolishing the *Reservations*, opening them up to white enterprise, and, in return, planting such of the aborigines as still survive, and are capable, on small homesteads, starting them in a manner warranted by circumstances. Even a protective measure of this kind, however, will, it is feared by those who know, only prove a stop-gap on the road to an extinction which is inevitable.—

INDIAN RICE (*Zizania aquatica*).—The "*folles avoines*" of the early settlers, but which derives its popular name from the fact of certain Indian

tribes depending upon it as part of their food supply.—INDIAN SIGN.

—Tracks or traces of the passage of red men; a trail.—INDIAN SUMMER.—The St. Martin's Summer of Europe, and, like it, a short spell of fine weather which usually sets in at the end of autumn. Indian tradition says that this brief interval is a special gift of the Great Spirit. With regard to the specific origin of its popular name among the early settlers, Kercheval, in his *History of the Valley of Virginia*, relates that it sometimes happened that after the apparent onset of winter, the weather became warm; the "smoky time" commenced, and lasted for a considerable number of days. This was the *Indian summer*, because it afforded the Indians—who, during the severe winter, never made any incursions into the settlements—another opportunity of visiting them with their destructive warfare. The melting of the snow saddened every countenance, and the genial warmth of the sun chilled every heart with horror. The apprehension of another visit from the Indians, and of being driven back to the detested fort, were painful in the highest degree.

—INDIAN TOBACCO (*Lobelia inflata*).

—A plant, the leaves of which were sometimes used by the aborigines as a substitute for tobacco.—INDIAN TURNIP (*Arum triphyllum*).—A poisonous, acrid root. Also called WAKE-ROBIN in New England, and JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT in Rhode Island. The name is also applied to the *Psoralea esculenta*, known popularly as POMME-BLANCHE and POMME DE PRAIRIE, a root which, in the West, serves as food for the Sioux Indians.—INDIAN WEED.—Tobacco.

INDORSER (Cant).—A quasi-legal flash term for one who flogs another on

the back; this is endorsing with a vengeance!

INFAIR OR INFARE. — A wedding festival.

INFORMATORY.—This unorthodox form for giving information or informing is frequently heard.

INGLER (Cant).—A horse cheat or swindler.

IN INTEREST.—For "interested in" is a vulgarism of the most unpardonable type, because without object, necessity, or brevity.

Some Western freight rates are still high enough to allow them to be still further reduced, and the several roads IN INTEREST are making the most of this.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, February 14th, 1888.

INJUNCT, TO.—To command; from "injunction." This is one of a numerous class of new forms, which, however much may be justly said against them, both as regards formation and purity, are largely in colloquial use, and to all appearance are the outcome of a tendency to brevity in speech.

INKLE!—A thief's term for "let him know"; "warn him!"

INK-SLINGER.—A professional writer for the press; generally applied contemptuously to raw hands.

INLAID (Cant).—A man is said to be *inlaid* when he has been able to save and invest his ill-gotten gains.

INNOCENT (Cant).—An *innocent* is either a corpse or an idiot. A dead body is also called a STIFF (*q.v.*). — INNOCENTS.—Convicted criminals. The suggested derivation of this term is, that convicts,

while guiltless, according to their own account, of wrong doing in the past, are certainly innocent of power to commit fresh crimes whilst in durance vile.

**INS.**—The *ins* are persons in office; those hoping to get in are the *OUTS*.

Civil service reform received no aid from any public man to amount to anything until the advent of Mr. Cleveland. But it is the civil service that turns out all the *INS* and puts in the *OUTS*.—*Boston Daily Globe*, 1888.

**INSIDE.**—When used for "reliable," as, e.g., *inside* facts, the usage is particularly American. *Inside*, in this connection, is a variant of *BOTTOM* (*q.v.*).

A secret service officer, who has just arrived from Washington on important business, claims to have *INSIDE* information as to the facts in the case.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, February 20, 1888.

—**INSIDE OF.**—A common colloquialism for "within"; "in less time than."

I now believe that he is the murderer. He is very desperate, and *INSIDE* of thirty days shot at four men.—*Missouri Republican*, February 22, 1883.

—**INSIDE TRACK.**—"To be on the inside track" of a scheme or undertaking is to be on the safe side; to be in a position to derive advantage therefrom.—**INSIDER** (*Cant*).—One who knows.

**INSURRECT, To.**—To rise in insurrection; to revolt.—*See TO INJUNCT*.

**INTERIOR.**—It is the custom to speak of the region of the Mississippi Valley as the *interior*.

**INTERMENT.**—American for funeral or burying, both of them much too simple words for everyday use. In like manner, a coffin is always a "casket." Even the slang phrase,

"That's not my funeral," undergoes transformation in this respect.

We are sorry to learn that some of the newsdealers did not order enough copies to meet the increased demand. But that is, after all, rather *THEIR INTERMENT THAN OURS*. The entire edition of the *Christmas Puck* was sold out within three days, and we can supply no more copies.—*Puck*, 1887.

**INTERVALE.**—An old New England form for alluvial land on the margin of a river.—*See BOTTOM*. Both *intervale* and meadow, which are common enough in New England, pass out of use altogether in the West except in books and newspapers.

**INTIMATE** (*Cant*).—A shirt.

**INTO.**—With the exception of; short of—a qualifying contraction used in Connecticut of number or quantity. Thus, a given distance may be referred to as six miles *into* a quarter; or one might be willing to give a dollar *into* ten cents for a particular article. A publisher's paper dealer also assures the public that his stock has only rags *into* it.

**IN-TY.**—An obsolete corruption (of the French *entier*), meaning certainly; indeed. Professor Allen, in *Slave Songs of the United States*, reports the use of *enty*? in the Sea Islands, used like our "Is that so"? in reply to a statement that surprises one. The same author suggests a Huguenot origin for some other negro corruptions, but does not propose *entier* for this.

**INWARDNESS.**—The true *inwardness* of a thing is its true purpose; the real object aimed at; its exact drift. This is one of the canting fashionable phrases of the day.



The committee has nothing to occupy its time during the legislative adjournment, and could have very profitably employed this week in getting at the true INWARDNESS of the executive mansion business. Does it need shoring up as well as the assembly ceiling? An inquiring public thinks so.—*Troy Daily Times*, Feb. 20, 1883.

**IRISH AMERICAN.**—The *Irish American* Party in the United States is a very powerful one, in some parts dominating the elections. The term is given to naturalized citizens originally from Ireland, or to a man born in the Union of Irish parents.

**IRISH POTATO** (*Solanum tuberosum*).—The popular name serves to distinguish the ordinary potato—the tuber which is alone known in England—from the SWEET POTATO of the tropics, the *Convolvulus batatas*.

**IRON CITY.**—Pittsburg, from its numerous iron works.

**IRON-CLAD OATH.**—See AMNESTY OATH.

**IRONED** (Cant).—Handcuffed.

**IRON WEED** (*Vernonia noveboracensis*).—The Western name for the FLAT-TOP of the North-eastern States. A tall weed.

**IRRIGATE, TO.**—To take a drink; a flash phrase, the equivalent of which is, in English slang, "to liquor up."

**IRRUPT, TO.**—To put in an appearance; to come from. A new form of the same stamp as INJUNCT, EXCURT, etc.—See EXCURSH.

Mr. Pulitzer IRRUPTED from the West, found the *New York World* sedate and scholarly, and having perhaps a ten or twelve thousand circulation. To-day the *World* prints ever so many hundreds of thousands, and has the revenue of a kingdom.

The man who has achieved this miracle, in a field to which he was a stranger, is not yet forty.—*San Francisco Weekly Examiner*, 1888.

**ISLAND.**—A grove or cluster of trees surrounded by prairie on every side. In Illinois, the Prairie State, the early settlers were careful to plant themselves not far from woods. As a consequence many of the towns and villages in that State contain open spaces amply shaded by noble old forest trees, survivors of the grove that once formed the *island*, near which the rude cabins of the old pioneers were built.

The village had been planted in what is called an ISLAND. . . . As it stands to-day, the pretty town is arranged about a large public square, neatly fenced, and with long hitching rails on all four sides of it.—*Century Magazine*, 1887.

The same remarks apply to most towns and villages situated on what was once prairie land.

It is not necessary that prairies should be entirely destitute of trees; for there are timber prairies, where trees grow in mottes or groves, sometimes termed ISLANDS, from their resemblance to wooded ISLANDS in the sea.—*Mayne Reid's The Boy Hunters*.

**ISSUANCE.**—The act of publication, sending out, or delivering.

The President shall be authorized and directed to make proclamation directing that such products of the foreign state, as he may deem proper, shall be excluded from importation to the United States; this proclamation to take effect sixty days after its ISSUANCE.—*St. Louis Daily Globe Democrat*, March 30, 1888.

**ISSUES.**—To POOL ONE'S ISSUES.—To come to an understanding for mutual advantage.

**IS THAT SO?**—This expression, the use of which almost borders on slang, serves the true-born American as a pendant to whatever observations may be addressed to him. It is both affirmative and

negative, according to the tone of the speaker's voice; in the former case it takes the place of "indeed!" or "really!" in the latter, it does duty for "not really!" "surely not!"

**ITEM.**—Intelligence; news. The term is singularly employed, as, "I got *item* of," etc., *i.e.*, "I got intimation of."

—**GIVING ITEMS.**—Among gamblers, confederates give *items* or hints by looking at the players' hands, and signalling their value. A complete code of secret signs is employed for the purpose.—**TO ITEMIZE.**—To make a list of; to prepare; to collect; to write an account of a transaction.

The prisoner's clothes were all pockets. Every time Officer Barry put his hand into these pockets he drew forth a handful of

jewellery. After Meyer had been thoroughly searched, the articles were **ITEMIZED**.—*Missouri Republican*, February 22, 1888.

—**ITEMIZER.**—One who makes an abstract; a *précis* writer.

**IVORY NUT** (*Phytalephas macrocarpa*).—

The Corosso nut of commerce. From the ripe fruit exudes a fluid largely used in the manufacture of vegetable ivory—hence its name.

**IVY.**—A name erroneously given in the South to the laurel.—

**AMERICAN IVY.**—The Virginian creeper; this is equally a misnomer.

**IVY BUSH** (Cant).—A hairy-faced man, one with thick hair, long and bushy beard and moustache.





**AB, TO.**—To strike; stab; or thrust; to handle roughly. A Western term, which, popularized by pugilists, has now passed into familiar usage.

I tried hard to **JAB** her in the eye, but you might as well try to poke a fencing-master in the eye with a stick as a bear, even if it only has one paw at liberty.—*American Humorist*, May 19, 1888.

Ellen Terry doesn't take good care of her hair. She twists it into a rough-and-tumble knot, and when it don't twist easily she's as like to **JAB** at it with her scissors and shorten it herself as trust it to anybody who knows how.—*Denver Republican*, May 6, 1888.

**JACAL.**—A rough hut built of stakes driven into the ground, and made weather-tight by the chinks being filled in with clay. *Jacal* (pronounced *hah-cal*) is from the Mexican *xacalli*, a straw hat. These dwellings are common in Texas and States once Mexican.

The supposition is that the man was murdered while asleep in one of the neighbouring **JACALS** and his body carried out to where it was found.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, March 30, 1888.

**JACK.**—An abbreviated form of **JACK-ASS RABBIT** (*q.v.*).—**TO JACK.**—Amongst ranchmen, to brand an unmarked yearling or maverick.—*See BRAND and MAVERICK.*—**MADE HIS JACK.**—A term borrowed from poker, and used colloquially as an affirmation of success; of having carried one's

point.—**JACK (Cant).**—A low mean fellow, and—**JACK DANDY.**—An impertinent one, who besides is short in stature, while—**JACK GAGGER** is a man whose wife or companion supports him by prostitution.—**JACK IN THE PULPIT** (*Arisama triphyllum*).—The Indian turnip. In Connecticut it is called the **ONE-BERRY**. New England house-wives regard this root as medicinally valuable, when boiled in milk, in the case of coughs.—**JACK-LEG.**—This term is equivalent to black-leg; thus, a *jack-leg*, a lawyer, whose record would not be regarded in a desirable light.

It seems that the State Bar Association is disposed to draw the line between attorneys and **JACK-LEG LAWYERS**, and between justices and jackasses of the peace. These lines should be very closely drawn.—*Florida Times Union*.—February 11, 1888.

—**JACK OAK** (*Quercus nigra*), otherwise the black-jack, the barren oak of botanists.

The Southern part of Illinois, popularly known as Egypt, is full of sand-hills and **JACK OAK**, neither being very profitable to anybody.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, January 20, 1888.

—**JACK-OF-LEGS.**—A tall man.—**JACK POTS.**—A Western modification, introduced in the game of poker, admitting of very high play.—*See JACK POTS* in *The American Hoyle*.

In all my experience on the sea I never saw such a big game as that was. It proved too heavy for the mate, who soon drew out



and left the two captains to play against each other.

They played tremendous JACK-POTS, and I wondered where in the world all the money came from.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, February 27, 1888.

—JACK RABBIT.—See JACKASS RABBIT.—JACK RUN.—A licence.

—JACK STONES.—The old English game of dibbs.—JACK WRIGHT.—A fat man.

**JACKASS RABBIT** (*Lepus callotis*).—Why this animal is called a rabbit is open to conjecture, as it has both the appearance and habits of the English hare, its ears being long and its legs long and slender. Its range is from Kansas to the Pacific, it being known also as the TEXAS HARE and the MULE RABBIT. Mark Twain, who claims to speak from knowledge of the animal, says it is well named, and as Americans somehow manage to get a good deal of fun out of the little "beastie," the famous humorist's description of it may not be out of place, especially as the facts are there, though the lights and shades may be a little heightened or subdued.

[He says] The JACKASS RABBIT is just like any other rabbit, except that he is from one-third to twice as large, has longer legs in proportion to his size, and has the most preposterous ears that ever were mounted on any creature but a jackass. When he . . . starts for home, he now and then makes a marvellous spring with his long legs, high over the stunted sage-brush, and scores a leap that would make a horse envious. . . . One must shoot at this creature once, if he wishes to see him throw his heart into his heels, and do the best he knows how. He straightens himself out like a yard-stick every spring he makes, and scatters miles behind him with an easy indifference that is enchanting.

**JACKET**.—"He proceeded home by a *jacket way*," is a peculiar usage and essentially American, the meaning being that the road is round-about. It is difficult to imagine what con-

nection there is in this case between the word and the idea conveyed by it, except it be that a *jacket* surrounds or goes about the body, the transition being then little more than a hop, step, and a jump. —To JACKET.—In Government offices, to *jacket* a document is, after scheduling, to enclose it with other papers referring to the same subject.

When it reached the Postmaster General's Office it was referred by the Third Assistant Postmaster General to the Finance Division. Another record was made in the book of the office of letters received and JACKETED.—*The American*, May 16th, 1888.

**JACKSON CRACKERS**.—A South-western term for firework *crackers*.

**JACOBITE**.—A shirt collar.

**JADE** (Cant).—In the patter of the criminal classes, a long term of imprisonment. In England a "stretch" does duty for the same idea.

**JAG**.—In New England a parcel; bundle; or load. An old English provincialism which has held its ground colloquially across the Atlantic.

Cleveland was forced up  $7\frac{1}{2}$  cents by the persistent bidding of one broker buying on a heavy order. He occasionally caught a JAG of 2,000 or 3,000 shares, but kept on bidding as if Cleveland were the only thing dear to him on earth. The action of the directors in deciding to continue work also had a stimulating effect.—*Missouri Republican*, 1888.

*Tag* is also a slang term for an umbrella, possibly from that article being so constantly carried.

He came in very late (after an unsuccessful effort to unlock the front door with his umbrella) through an unfastened coal hole in the sidewalk. Coming to himself toward daylight, he found himself—spring overcoat, silk hat, JAG and all—stretched out in the bath tub.—*Albany Journal*, 1888.

**JAIL, To.**—To put in prison. A new form, bad from every point of view, but coined no doubt for brevity's sake, though the gain on "to imprison" is hardly worth consideration.

Maryland has **JAILED** a seven-wife man. He says any man who would live a bachelor life is an idiot.—*Detroit Free Press*, August, 1888.

—**JAIL-DELIVERY.**—When prisoners are rescued from confinement the jail is said to have been delivered—hence, *jail-delivery*. In thinly-settled regions the arm of the law is neither long nor strong enough to prevent jail-breaking.

News has just been received by the authorities in Nueva Laredo, Mexico, that a **JAIL-DELIVERY** occurred at the town of Hidalgo.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, March 30, 1888.

**JAM** (Cant).—A gold ring. Also **JEM**. —**JAMMED** (Cant).—(1) One who meets with a violent death either by accident, murder, or hanging, is said to be *jammed*. The expression certainly lacks nothing in coarseness or brutality. —(2) Potatoes, fruit, and such-like are *jammed* when mashed. —**JAM UP.**—The pink of perfection; beyond comparison. Equivalents in English slang are "slap up" and "bang up."

**JAMAICA PEPPER** (*Eugenia pimenta*).—**ALLSPICE** (*q.v.*).

**JAMBOREE.**—A noisy frolic; a merry-making bordering upon a disturbance of the peace.

Us folks in the country sees  
Lots o' fun—take spellin'-school;  
Er ole hoe-down **JAMBOREES**.  
—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1888.

**JAMESTOWN WEED.**—Also **APPLE OF PERU** (*q.v.*), and bearing other popular names, that of *Jamestown*

(pronounced *Jimson*) *weed* being traceable to the fact that it was first noticed in Jamestown, in Virginia.

**JAMS.**—A contraction of **JIM-JAMS** (*q.v.*); delirium tremens.

'Well, now, lookit here,' said Patsey, as he pushed up toward the trembling man and took his hand with a professional air, 'my fader's de best doctor in Boston, an' has lots of dese cases. He keeps de medicine to stave off de **JAMS** already mixed. It fetches de snakes or de rats every time.'

'Dat's so, Patsey; I've seen many a bloke saved by dat stuff,' put in Jimmy.—*Boston Daily Globe*, March, 4, 1888.

**JANAZARIES** (Cant).—This title of a celebrated Turkish militia corps, is, in the lingo of American thieves, applied to a gang of pickpockets. In the sense of thieves being soldiers who war against society, the term is not altogether inapplicable.

**JANUSMUG** (Cant).—An intermediary between the thief and the receiver; like the two-faced mythical deity "Janus," the *Janusmug* turns first to the one side, and then to the other.

**JAPANNED** (Cant).—In the patter of his class, a thief is said to be *japanned*, when a prison chaplain reports him as converted, a phrase full of subtle cynicism. Compare with "whitewashed." In English University slang, "to japan" is to ordain, the allusion in this case being to the black garb usually worn by the clergy.

**JAJUIMA.**—The head-stall of a halter. From the Spanish, and pronounced *hak-ke-ma*. The *jajuima* is used in Texas and California for breaking in wild horses. Also **HACKAMORE** (*q.v.*).

**JARGON.**—A trade language in use on the North-west coast and in Oregon. Also called **CHINOOK** (*q.v.*).

**JARKMAN.**—A begging letter writer, whose accomplishments in this respect are varied by the production of false characters for servants, and other documents of a kindred nature. This is a case, like many others, in which old English cant terms have, across the Atlantic, been invested with a new meaning. Formerly a *jarkman* was equivalent to an "Abram-man," *i.e.*, a licensed beggar. "Jark" means a seal, and in Oxford slang a "safe-conduct pass"; in the former sense it is retained in the patter of modern American thieves, a synonym being JASKER.

**JASKER.**—See JARKMAN.

**JAY.**—A New York synonym for the genus' dude or masher; also HAM-FATTER. *Jay* is obviously allusive to the plumage of the biped.

For fully a half dozen years my occupation required me to pass through Fourteenth-street twice a day between Broadway and the third avenue L station. Never during that period, nor since, have I been annoyed in the slightest way by any of the so-called JAYS.—*New York Herald*, September, 1888.

**JAYHAWKERS.**—During the troublesome times of the FREE SOIL AGITATION, itself an *avant coureur* of the still more deadly strife which was looming in the future, the *Jay-hawkers*, taking advantage thereof, waged war against both parties alike. They were little else than lawless bands of murderous marauders. Their name is identified with Kansas, that State having been the scene of the thickest of the strife. (See BLEEDING KANSAS.) Two derivations are given for *Jay-hawker*; one, that it is a corruption of Gay Yorker, which is rather unlikely; the other, that it came from Australia by way of California, and was a coinage of the convicts of the Southern Continent.

Swinney has had a most eventful career of crime, as he has from boyhood been identified continuously with some kind of lawlessness. When only a youth he was connected with what is known as the JAYHAWKER war that raged on the borders of Kansas about twenty-five years since. From that time to the present he has been associated with the bandits and outlaws.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, January 20, 1888.

**JEFF.**—To gamble with quads, these being used like dice. A printer's term of uncertain derivation.

No, he is possessed of the spirit of Job, and will JEFF with quads for hours, if the editor does not happen to awaken from the profound editorial on which he is engaged with a view of saving the nation.—*Mark Twain*.

**JEFF DAVIS BOXES.**—Also called MUSICAL BOXES, both being facetious names given by the Confederates to creaking, ill-built army-wagons.

**JEFFY.**—A slang term amongst thieves for lightning. It is probable that "in a jiffy," *i.e.*, in a moment, may have originated in this connection, or *vice versa*.

**JERKED.**—This term applied to meat refers to that which has been cut in thin strips and dried over a fire or in the sun. Whether derived from the English "to jerk," or from *charqui* a native word is an open question.

The hobbled horses were turned loose for the night, and a fire was made, around which the men stretched themselves, munching some JERKED beef and some cold tortillas.—*The American Cultivator*, 1888.

**JERKS and JERKY EXERCISE.**—Convulsive paroxysms, into which persons and sometimes whole meetings are thrown at seasons of so-called religious revival. Regarded with suspicious incredulity by the curiously sceptical, or as "the working of the Holy Spirit" by the religious enthusiast, the true explanation of these phenomena must in



all probability be sought in the direction of unconscious mesmeric volition.—See on this subject Gregory's *Animal Magnetism*. This phenomenon has been noticeably apparent in America at many monster gatherings of religionists, a fact partly explainable no doubt by the more nervous temperament of the people.

**JERKY.**—A roughly made vehicle ; as its name implies, a "bone-shaker."

The appearance of the two skiffs on wheels, loaded with provisions and camp equipage, with the company following, some on foot and some in a *jerky*, was by no means heroic. Nevertheless, the people of the town, accustomed to seeing all sorts of queer outfits, witnessed our departure without any vociferous demonstrations of hilarity.—*Century Magazine*, 1887.

**JERSEY LIGHTNING.**—A fruit brandy, otherwise known as *APPLE JOHN* in New England, and *APPLE BRANDY* (*q.v.*) in Virginia.

Dr. Hawley says that Perpete was overcome by the use of too much chloral and *JERSEY LIGHTNING*, and, between them and the exposure he underwent lying out all night, he was so much prostrated that he became paralysed.—*New York Herald*, July 29, 1888.

**JERSEY TEA** (*Ceanothus americana*).—A herbal decoction, known, as implied by the name, in New Jersey.

**JERUSALEM !**—An exclamation of surprise current in New England, whence have come many of the perversions of language which now do swearing duty in the Union.

**JESSANY** (Cant).—A well-dressed man.

**JESSE, JESSIE.**—To GIVE ONE JESSE. —To administer a physical or moral castigation. The intensified forms —particular *jessie*, or *d*—particular *jessie*—are also American.

'As I don't know this fellar, and never seed him afore in my life, it's the best proof that he ain't Judge Eddards [the speaker, a rival candidate for office, was pretending not to know him]; so you'll oblige me by taking him off the ground, and keeping from disturbing the meeting.' Expostulation was useless; without any ceremony he was carried into the hotel boiling with indignation. There, however, he had to stay, at a convenient distance, to hear that Allen was GIVING HIM PARTICULAR JESSE.—*Sam Slick's Americans at Home*, p. 19.

It appears certain that this phrase is a remnant of the days when the language of falconry was as familiar among the youths as that of horse racing now is. The *jess* was a thong by which the bird was attached to the wrist, and when it retrieved badly it appears to have been the custom to punish it by the application of the thong. It is not unlikely that this convenient bit of leather may also have been used from time to time in arguments with boys.—*Journal of American Folk Lore*, 1888.

**JEWHILLIKENS !**—An exclamation in the West which does fatigue duty in the literal sense of the word ; a kind of safety-valve expression.

**JIB.**—LET'S UP **JIB.**—A signal of departure ; or more familiarly, to cease talking. A phrase derived from the hoisting of the *jib* sail of a vessel when about to make a start.

**JIBE, TO.**—To agree with ; to harmonise ; to go well with.

Don't you notice that sometimes last night the piece you happened to be playing was a little rough on the proprietors, so to speak—didn't seem to *JIBE* with the general gait of the picture that was passing at the time, as it were.—*Mark Twain's Screemers*.

**JIG.**—(1) In New England this is the name of a kind of spoon-bait.—(2) (Cant). A trick, possibly a contraction of

**JIGAMAREE**, which has the same meaning primarily. Colloquially the word is applied to any triviality or piece of nonsense.

**JIGGER.**—(1) A local name in New England for a small fishing-vessel, which is also applied to the sail with which it is rigged, and the fisherman who mans it.

The owner of the JIGGER said that his name was Catlin, and that he lived in St. Louis several years, working at his trade of a machinist. He was bound for Jupiter Inlet.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, March 10, 1888.

A small boat with a JIGGER sail put into the river on Monday.—*Ibid.*

Herman Zenk was reported to have a large sum of money hidden in the house. Zenk was a queer JIGGER, and caught lots of fish.—*Ibid.*

—(2) A corrupted form of CHIGOE (*q.v.*).—To JIGGER.—To move uneasily; to fidget; so used in the South-west.

After an incredible amount of pulling and JIGGERING about, they [cows] are gotten into the team.—*Overland Monthly*, 1888.

Here to jigger is obviously an amplified form of "to jig," to dance in a lively manner.—

**JIGGLING-BOARD.**—A spring-board, such as is used for diving and athletics; *jiggling* from "jig" in the sense of quick motion.

**JIGLETS.**—His JIGLETS!—A derisively contemptuous form of address.

Ain't his JIGLETS pretty near ready to see de rat, Jimmy?—*Boston Globe*, March 4, 1888.

**JIG-WATER.**—Bad whiskey.

A middle-aged countryman had just tottered away from the counter, over which fusil oil (JIG-WATER) is dispensed.—*Boston Globe*, March 4, 1888.

**JILT** (Cant).—A woman accomplice of a thief who entices the victim and occupies his attention whilst he is being robbed. In English slang a *jilt* is a crowbar.

**JIMBERJAW.**—A protruding lower jaw.

**JIM-DANDY.**—Superfine; flashy.

George C. Ball came upon the floor yesterday arrayed in a JIM-DANDY suit of clothes, silk hat, English walking-stick, and button-hole bouquet. This was too much for the crowd, and George was hustled about until he had to retire to save his nice things.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, Feb. 14, 1888.

**JIM-JAMS.**—Delirium tremens. This term, said to have originated in Kentucky, is now common everywhere.

Burbridge came to the city on Saturday, and began to drink very excessively. He was a witness in a case in the Mayor's Court yesterday morning, but he was too drunk to testify, and was locked up for contempt. He had the JIM-JAMS yesterday evening, and last night he raved like a madman.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, Feb. 16, 1888.

Also applied idiomatically to distorted views of men and things.

We are glad to see *Harper's Weekly* suffering the JIM-JAMS of distortion on the envenomed pencil of an extraordinary artist. Such art has never before been exhibited in this country. The immense artist draws, we should think, with his thumb.—*The Cincinnati Commercial Gazette*, July 22, 1888.

**JIMPSON OR JIMSON WEED.**—The popular pronunciation of JAMESTOWN WEED (*q.v.*).

**JINGLE-BRAINS.**—A wild, harum-scarum kind of fellow.

**JOBBER-NUT** (Cant).—A tall ungainly fellow.

**JOB'S DOCK** (Cant).—A hospital. Here again Bill Sykes shows his appreciation of dry humor. The juxtaposition of the prophet of patience with the *bête noir* of the criminal is very curious.

**JOCK, TO** (Cant).—To enjoy oneself.

**JOE OR JOSEPH.**—NOT FOR JOSEPH!—An exclamation of dissent; equi-

valent to "not if I know myself." Both phrases are American, *not for Joe* having made its appearance since the War; the other is much older and may be traced to Chicago.

**JOE-PYE WEED** (*Eupatorium purpureum*). —*Joe Pye* was an Indian who used this herb largely in treating cases of typhus fever. Maine.

**JOG**.—A contracted form of "joggle," a piece of projecting stone introduced into a joint. In the States, *jog* is used to signify any deviation from a straight line or even surface.

**JOHN DAVIS**, otherwise the **READY JOHN**. —A sample of the thousand-and-one nicknames for money.

**JOHNNY CAKE**.—A maize-meal cake. —A delicacy much esteemed in past years.

If I don't make a **JOHNNY-CAKE** every day, Kier says, 'Ma, why don't you make some Indian bread?'—*Widow Bedott Papers*, p. 70.

> *John Collins.*

**JOHNNY-JUMP-UP-AND-KISS-ME**.—The heart's-ease. Also called **JOHNNY-JUMP-UP** and **JOHNNY-JUMPER**.

She set a heap o' store by flowers, too, an' when the **JOHNNY-JUMP-UPS** an' dandelions begun to come out an' the weather 'uz a gittin' warm, she'd go up in the woods an' gather all she could carry.—*Boston Sunday Budget*, 1868.

**JOHNS, JOHNNIES, OR JOHN CHINAMAN**, are all generic Californian names for the Chinese; now common everywhere; also in England. —**JOHNNIES**.—*Johnnies*, or, more fully, the **JOHNNY REBS**, was one of the names by which the soldiers of the Confederacy were known to those of the North.

**JOHN THE BAPTIST**.—A one cent piece.

'Ef a gentleman says: Come hyar, you black scamp, en' black mer boots, en' do hit quick, too, I know's dat man's frum down souf, en' he gwine to gimme sompen, en' mos' likely a quartah.' Thus a darky boy on a Mississippi steamboat was explaining his position as to sectional proclivities. He went on further to say: 'Ef anuther gentleman say to me, My dear young cullud frien', will you be so kine ez to black my boots? dat man's from Greenlan's icy mountains, er sommers in dat direction En' mebbe he gwine ter gimme a **JOHN DE BAPTIST**'—dat's one cent—but mos' likely he gwinter jis' give thanks.' —*Arkansaw Traveler*, October, 1888.

*Joint?*

**JORDAIN** (Cant).—A blow.

**JORDAN** (Cant).—A thing is said to be *jordan* when difficult of accomplishment. In English slang a *jordan* stands for what Max O'Rell wittily characterizes as "It."

**JORNADA**.—A Spanish name given to dreary wastes in the West. Literally, *jornada* (pronounced hornah-da) means a day's journey, but, needless to say, many of these arid tracts of country are of far greater extent.

All the so-called mesa formations and **JORNADAS** of this district belong to a distinct system of basin deposits, tertiary or post-tertiary in age. . . . The mesa, or table-land character, is exhibited only along the line of river valleys, as high bluffs, the result of denuding forces, subsequent to the original basin depositions. —*Reports of the Pacific Railroad*, vol. I., p. 84.

**JOSEPH** (Cant).—(1) A patched coat. From Joseph's coat of many colors. —(2) A sheepish, bashful fellow; also a biblical allusion of a more sarcastic type. —To **WEAR JOSEPH'S COAT**.—To be proof against temptation, as *Joseph* is recorded to have withstood the wiles of Potiphar's wife.

**JOSEY**.—A light wrap used by women.



**JOSH.**—An inhabitant of Arkansas was thus known in the rebel army during the Civil War.

**JOUR. OR JUR.**—Short for journeyman.

**JUDAS TREE** (*Cercis canadensis*). — A small tree with peach-like flowers; also called RED BUD.

**JUDGES OF THE PLAINS.**—Men appointed by law in cattle raising districts, who are armed with full power to settle all disputes which may crop up at ROUND-UPS, or other gatherings of cattlemen and stock.

**JUDY.**—A fool; simpleton; or, more forcibly, an ass.

**JUG** (Cant).—This word, which, in England, stands for a prison of any kind, in America represents a bank; while to *jug* money is to hide it, possibly the nearest approach to banking known to the majority of thieves.—**JUG-BREAKING.**—To commit a burglary at a bank.

**JUGFUL.**—NOT BY A JUGFUL.—A phrase limiting application and action; by no means; an equivalent in English slang is "not by a long shot."

**JULEP.**—An American drink. Brandy or whiskey, sugar, pounded ice, and a sprig of mint are its components. Bartlett erroneously states that the word itself is of transatlantic origin. It in reality comes from the Arabic *gul*, rose; *ab*, water.

Did we spare our brandy cocktails, stint thee of our whiskey-grogs?

Half the JULEPS that we gave thee would have floored a Newman Nogg.

—*Book of Ballads.*

**JUMMIXED.**—A factitious word signifying jumbled up or mixed together.

**JUMP** (Cant). — A widow. — To JUMP.—(1) To decamp surreptitiously, as when a prisoner *jumps* his bail, *i.e.*, absconds; or when a dishonest person *jumps* his bill at an hotel by leaving without payment.

Slumbering lightly, he arose at early dawn, and JUMPED his bill like a true American.—*Chicago Herald*, 1888.

—(2) To take forcible possession; to defraud. In this sense to *jump* is very common in new districts where by right the first occupant is, in squatter law and custom, entitled to a first claim on the land. When wrongfully deprived of such rights the settler is said to have had his claim *jumped*, the perpetrator of the wrong being called a CLAIM-JUMPER (*q.v.*). Such action often leads to terrible feuds.

It is remarkable the swift and terrific retribution which has followed every man closely connected with the JUMPING of the Cottonwoods ranch and the murder of Ike Ellinger.—*Cincinnati Enquirer*, 1888.

—FROM THE JUMP.—From the commencement; of athletic origin.

There is not the slightest doubt that a meeting between the English and American champions will be arranged as soon as the former arrives here, and should Wannop consent to wrestle in Chicago he can depend upon a big crowd and fair play FROM THE JUMP.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, February 3, 1888.

—JUMPING-OFF PLACE. — Formerly the confines of civilization; the temporary and ever shifting termini of the trunk lines of railway across the continent being thus typically known; now, a *jump off* has simply come to mean a destination.

It is a sort of JUMPING-OFF place. None of the park guides, I think I am correct in saying, know how to get out of it unless by returning as they came, at least they did not two or three years ago.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

They were both born in Bedford County, Va., came to Indiana about 1820, and to Missouri in 1839. So in following the Star

of Empire they kept ahead of the iron horse until he overtook them at the JUMPING-OFF place.—*Portland Oregonian*, 1888.

—TO BE ESSENTIALLY JUMPED UP.—An intensitive calculated to convey an idea of extreme perturbation.

**JUMPER.**—A rude kind of sleigh, consisting merely of a box fastened to two poles.

Here two voyageurs were waiting for us with their *jumpers*, and, uninviting as the frail structures looked at first sight, we soon found that they were quite comfortable, and admirably adapted to the mode of travelling in this howling wilderness.—*A Winter in Canada*, p. 137.

**JUNE, To (Texas).**—To go. Probably from the German *gehen*.

**JUNK-BOTTLE.**—The common, dark bottle used for beer and malt liquors generally—hence JUNK-DEALER and

JUNK-STORE, for what in England are known as marine stores and marine store dealers; the terms are also applied to any second-hand dealer and his place of business.

A JUNK STORE RIFLED.

The second-hand store of Joseph Laschkowitz, 13, North Levee, was rifled of a large lot of goods early yesterday morning.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, March 10, 1888.

Those morning bells! Those JUNKMEN'S bells!

How many a tale their jangling tells  
Of missing clothes and that sad time  
When sleep's destroyed by their harsh  
chime.—*American Paper*.

**JUST PARALYSED.**—Overcome; a slang synonym for intense surprise.

Mr. Claus Spreckels is the great sugar king of the Pacific coast, and may be much more correctly spoken of as made of shekels than of sugar. He deposited a check in a bank there the other day, that JUST PARALYSED the officials of the bank he honored with his patronage. It was for 400,000 dols. odd.—*American Humorist*, August, 1888.





**AMAS ROOT** (*Camassia esculenta*).—A variety of INDIAN TURNIP; also called POMME DES PRAIRIES, and POMME BLANCHE by French Canadians. This root is a food-

staple of the **DIGGER INDIANS** (*q.v.*).

**KANACKA**.—A Sandwich Island term for a man; introduced into California by immigrants from the Pacific.

**KANTICOY**.—See **CANTICO**.

**KANUCK**.—A Canadian. A variant of **CANACK** (*q.v.*).

One was a short, square-built, good-humored **KANUCK**, always laughing and talking, who interlarded his conversation with a singularly original mixture of the most villainous French and English profanity.—*Century Magazine*, Oct. 1888.

**KARIMPTION**.—Western for a body of people; a crowd.

**KARPLUNK!**—An onomatopoetic word, invented to imitate the sound of a falling body into water. These <sup>ok</sup> philological curiosities are very numerous.—See **CACHUNK**.

The bar'l kep' in the road 'til it got to the bridge at the bottom o' the hill, an' then it squeejeed to the right an' dropped **KARPLUNK!** in the creek, ten feet below.—*Chicago Herald*, 1888.

**KATE** (Cant).—A generic name for a bold, brazen-faced woman; what

is now generally understood in England as a "hussy."

**KATEY** (Cant).—A burglar's tool for picking locks. Cracksmen's implements are mainly known under the guise of male and female Christian names, *e.g.*, "jemmy," "billy," etc.

**KATOOSE, KATOWSE**.—A New England corruption, it is said, of the German *getöse*, and signifying a din or clatter.

**KATYDID** and **KATYDIDN'T** (*Cyrtophyl- lum concavum*). The popular name of this grasshopper is derived from an attempt of children to vocalize the sound made by its wings.

**KAY, CAY, KEY**.—A low, flat, rocky island, or ridge of rock, is so-called throughout the West Indies. From the Spanish *cayo*; *Key* West in Florida, however, is a corruption of *Cayo Hueso*, or Bone Island.

**KEARNYITES**.—Followers of one, Dennis Kearny, a Communist, who some years since commanded quite a strong faction among discontented working men. For a time he made his headquarters in what were known as the "Sand Lots," near San Francisco.

**KECHUG!** or **KERCHUG!**—An onomatopoetic word, similar in type and application to **CACHUNK** (*q.v.*).



**KEDGE.**—This old English provincialism for brisk or lively, in relation to the health and spirits, long survived in New England. It is, however, rarely heard now.

**KEEL-BOAT.**—A type of boat of shallow draught, which has now practically disappeared from Mississippi waters, on which it was once a familiar object.

**KEELER TUB.**—A pan or tub for culinary purposes. New England.

**KEEL OVER, TO.**—Colloquially, to collapse. Of nautical origin; as also is **TO KEEL UP.**—To succumb to sickness or old age.

**KEENER.**—A Western synonym for a shrewd, sharp man. "He's a *keener*," *i.e.*, one of whom no advantage can be taken.

**KEEP, TO,** for to live, to subsist, with its variants (such as **KEEPING ROOM**, for living room; **HOUSEKEEP**, for keeping house; and **ROOM-KEEP**), still retains a great hold on popular speech in America, especially in the New England States. In the Mother Country, these forms are regarded as provincial.

**KEET.**—The domestic guinea-fowl; also **GUINEA-KEET**.

**KEFFEL (Cant).**—A horse.

**KE-KEYA (Cant).**—A nickname for the devil; Satan.

**KELLOCK, KELICK, KILLOCK.**—A small anchor in use on fishing smacks. Provincial in England, but colloquial in the Eastern States.

**KELTER, KILTER.**—To be in or out of *ketter* is to be in or out of con-

dition, good trim, or order. The same term in English slang signifies gold, or money generally, probably because a thief only regards himself as in good condition when money is plentiful with him. The word *kilter* is provincial in England, from the Danish *kilter*, order, though Hotten affects to trace it, in its slang usage, to *gelt* = money. New England and Pennsylvania.

**KELUMPUS!**—An onomatopoeticism. *Kelumpus* is supposed to be an imitation of the sound made by the falling of one heavy body upon another.—See **CACHUNK**.

**KENIPTION FIT.**—See **CONNIPTION FIT**.

**KENTUCKY COFEEE** (*Gymnocladus canadensis*).—Also **KENTUCKY LOCUST**. The berries serve as a substitute for coffee, and the wood has a marketable value for cabinet-making.

**KENTUCKY FLAT.**—See **FLAT-BOAT**.

**KERBOODLE.**—A variant of **CABOODLE** (*q.v.*).

**KERCHUNK!**—The sound made by anything falling heavily. *Kerchunk*, or **CACHUNK** (*q.v.*), belongs to a class which grammarians call onomatopoetic; *i.e.*, vocables formed in imitation of sounds. These words are very popular, and of almost infinite variety.

I was leaning on the rail looking at the moon when the fence broke down, and **KERCHUNK!** I went right through the ice all under. I made a jump, you'd better believe, and started for the house on the dog-trot.—*Fostoria Democrat*, March 8, 1888.

The same remarks apply to

**KERPLUNK!**—An exclamation of the same order as CACHUNK—the noise made by the falling of a body.

Kind old lady (to little boy, who has just fallen down)—'Where did you hurt yourself, little boy?'

Little boy (crying)—'Wh-where d'ye s'pose a f-f-feller hurts himself when he sets down KERPLUNK!—1888.

**KERTHUMP!**—Another of the same class of words.

He's always a-gittin' into a bad crowd, an' tryin' some deviltry 'r nuther; out uv one scrape an' into 't'other, kinduh keerless like; head up an' never ketchin' sight 'v a stump tell he's fell over it, KERTHUMP! head over heels.—*Century Magazine*, 1888.

**KESHAU.**—A pumpkin-like fruit.—*See CASHAW.*

**KESLOSH! KESWOSH! KEWOSH!**—Onomatopoeic exclamations intended to imitate the sound of a body falling, splash! into the water.—*See CACHUNK and KERCHUNK.*

**KESOUSE!**—A vocable, representing the sousing of a body in water.—*See KESLOSH.*—To KESOUSE.—To souse in water.

**KESWOLLOP!**—*See CACHUNK and KESLOSH.*

**KETTLE.**—(1) In New England, a tin pail.—(2) In the sugar-growing districts, a *kettle* is an antiquated, open boiling pan.

A great deal of sugar is still made in Louisiana by the old open-KETTLE process, wasteful as it is, for the simple reason that the planters cannot afford to buy new apparatus. This old process is substantially the same as was in use at the beginning of the century. Five or six big cast iron KETTLES of graduated size are arranged in line over a brick furnace. At one end is the fire of cypress wood; at the other the tall chimney. The cane-juice runs into the largest KETTLE, called the grand, which is farthest from the fire, and in the course of the boiling is ladled successively into the others, called, in order,

the prop or proy, the flambeau, the sirop, and the battery. Often there are six KETTLES, a first and a second grand. I have not been able to learn the derivation of the prop. The grand is so called because of its size, the flambeau because the flames of the furnace strike it with most force; sirop is French for syrup, and battery is the French word for *bâtir*, to build, the syrup being granulated or built up into sugar in this KETTLE. From the battery the thick sugary mass goes to wooden tanks to cool. Much of the molasses is here drained off. The rest drifts from the hogsheds placed above troughs after the sugar is packed.—*Century Magazine*, 1887.

**KEYSTONE STATE.**—Pennsylvania—a tribute to its importance, its wealth, and its industries. The sobriquet dates back to the time of the Revolution, and was suggested by the position of the name, when, with those of the other States, they were arranged according to geographical order. It was then found that it occupied the centre or *keystone* position.

**KIBBLING.**—Small fish, used for bait. Newfoundland.

**KICK, To.**—(1) To jilt or discard a lover. A Southern elegance! In the North, TO GIVE THE MITTEN is at all events a more graceful synonym.—(2) To object to, to find fault with. Colloquial everywhere, and employed in numerous combinations.

As Canada is already KICKING at the new fishery treaty, it is probably safe to assume that Secretary Bayard in this matter has acquitted himself rather creditably.—*Chicago Herald*, 1888.

The colored man is not a producer, but a laborer, and the tariff is of no good to him. But that is not what he kicks about. He feels that if he leaves the party with which he has always been identified, the Democrats may give him better treatment.—*New York Herald*, July 29, 1888.

—**KICKER.**—One who revolts against party discipline—*kicks* over the traces, as it were.

The chronic KICKER is always on hand when any improvement is proposed. Men experienced in public affairs learn to expect and disregard these grumblers and obstructionists. A great objector is invariably a great bore.—*Rochester Herald*, 1888.

KICKER in America is one who objects to anything. You will see in the American press such items as these: 'Citizen Jones kicks against being assessed so high for his Fourth Street property;' 'Anson raised a double-jointed gilt-edged kick when the umpire gave him out in the second innings yesterday;' 'The High School girls kick against long study hours.' etc.—*Detroit Free Press*, August 4, 1888.

**KID.**—The receptacle on fishing smacks, into which the "catches" are thrown. A New England localism.

**KILL, TO.**—(1) A political term, signifying to neutralize votes, or to defeat a measure through counter-votes or opposition. Also, in colloquial use, with the meaning of to defeat; to nullify; to obstruct.

Reports reached Denver yesterday of trouble at McCook. It was stated that striking engineers had taken a non-brotherhood man off a locomotive and had assaulted him, after which they had run the engine away from the train to which it was attached and had KILLED it; that subsequently some men had been arrested and fined by a magistrate.—*Denver Republican*, February 29, 1888.

—(2) To do a thing thoroughly; e.g., "to dress to kill," etc.—

**KILL** (from Dutch *kill*).—A piece of water, river, stream, or arm of the sea. Preserved in names of localities, as, e.g., Catskill.

The new Baltimore and Ohio bridge across the KILLS, below Elizabethport, commences to assume imposing proportions. The Jersey pier is finished and the Staten Island pier is completed to the surface of the water; the big centre pier in the middle of the stream is nearly built. Over one hundred men are employed on the bridge.—*Newark Advertiser*, 1888.

**KILLDEER OR KILLDEE** (*Oxiechus vociferus*).—A bird of the plover species

with a plaintive note, which has given rise to its popular name.

**KILL-DEVIL.**—New rum.

**KILL-HAG.**—The Indian name of a trap for game.

**KILLING TIME.**—A Southern term for the early winter; literally the *killing-time* for swine.

**KILL-LAMB.**—See CALF-KILL.

**KILLOCK-KILLICK.**—See KELLOCK.

**KILLY-FISH OR KILLY.**—A small bait fish, found in the Kills between Staten Island and Bergen, from which it derives its name. In appearance the *killy-fish* is very similar to whitebait.

**KINDER SORTER.**—A corrupted form of a pleonastic vulgarism—"a kind of sort of," i.e., somehow; rather. Bartlett erroneously quotes *kinder*, or *kind o'*, as American, in spite of an authoritative quotation to the contrary from Forby. *Kinder sorter*, however, is a combination that possibly comes within the category. People who like to be singular reverse the order, and say *sorter kinder*.

**KINDLERS, KINDLINGS.**—Sticks and small wood for lighting fires. New England. Resinous pine chips are technically known as *kindlings*.

This morning I watched a man chopping wood; I give it up; there is a science even in wood chopping, and that man certainly had not found it out. I have seen a Yankee woman hold the axe in just about that way when she had KINDLINGS to split. But for a man to be so awkward! Why, I verily believe I could do better myself. Labour is cheap, and no wonder.—*New York World*, 1888.

**KING.**—A large-employer of capital (his own), and labor (other



people's). Here the relation of one to the other often ends.

They heard of CATTLE KINGS and WHEAT KINGS, and IRON KINGS and COTTON KINGS, and RAILROAD KINGS.—*Troy Daily Times*, February 7, 1888.

**KING-BIRD** (*Tyrannus carolinensis*).—

Also called the SCISSOR TAIL. This bird is found at times throughout the Union, and is well named, being exceedingly courageous and intrepid, not even hesitating to attack hawks and eagles in defence of its young. In the South it is known as the FIELD-MARTIN, whilst amongst the Indians it receives the name of SACHEM, in acknowledgment of its prowess.

**KING CAKE DAY**.—A Mexican equivalent for the English Twelfth Cake Day, the 6th of January. It is customary then to invite one's friends to dinner, and for dessert a large cake resembling a crown is served. It is cut into as many slices as there are persons at the table. In the cake, before baking, a large bean is placed, and whoever gets the slice containing the bean has to give a party within a few weeks. There is always much merriment at the cutting of the *king cake*.

**KINK**.—From the legitimate meaning of *hink*, a twist in a rope, etc., Americans have derived an idiomatic usage in the sense of moral obliquity, perverseness, etc. A plan or undertaking that does not run smoothly, or work out as expected, is said to have a *kink* in it.

A KINK arose in the non-payment of rent by Samuels, and Strauss wished to compel him to pay it.—*Missouri Republican*, Feb. 11, 1888.

This word is mostly written *kinkle*. — KINKY. — Queer; eccentric; crotchety; thus views of an uncer-

tain nature would be said to be *kinky*, while another shade of meaning is conveyed in the following:—

Cows' hair, which hitherto has been of little use except in mortar for walls and ceilings, is now made into a heavy felt, which is used for the soles of slippers, farmers' snow boots, wrapping for steam pipes, etc., but it has to be mixed with something KINKY to hold it together.—*Springfield Republican*, 1888.

**KINNIKINNICK**.—Indian tobacco. This Algonkin word signifies "a mixture," the article itself being a compound of sumac, willow, and genuine tobacco leaves.

**KINY**.—A New Hampshire corruption for about; perhaps.

**KIP** (Cant).—(1) A bed.—(2) "He's a *kíp*," *i.e.*, half a fool; dull witted.

**KISKITOMAS NUT**.—The Indian name of the hickory nut.

**KISS-ME**.—See THANK-YOU-MA'AM.

**KITCHEN PHYSIC** (Cant). — Victuals; food of any kind.

**KITE** (Cant).—Chief of a gang of thieves.—KITE-FLYING.—To lead a mob or party.

**KIUSE**.—See CAYUSE.

**KI-YI**.—A negro expletive; chiefly amongst children.

It is the chief work of the pickaninnies (children) of the plantation to keep the plants free from worms. Two or three times a week they go up one row and down another, carefully looking under every leaf in the hunt. Now and then you will hear a joyous KI-YI come from the direction of some woolly-headed worker, and you may know that it sounds the death knell of an unusually large pest.—*Detroit Free Press*, Aug. 4, 1883.

**KNEE HIGH TO A MOSQUITO.**—Insignificant; of little account. Generally applied in relation to stature. The phrase varies in different parts of the country; in New England it runs *knee high to a toad*, while in Maryland, the standard of measurement is a grasshopper. Other variants have been introduced; such as, *knee high to a chaw of tobacco*.

**KNICKERBOCKER FAMILIES.**—Descendants of the old Dutch settlers in New York state and city.

When the Bowling Green, as it is still called, was the only park New York possessed except the Battery, there lived in the town a pretty girl of one of the oldest **KNICKERBOCKER FAMILIES** (all families were old **KNICKERBOCKER FAMILIES** then—there were no others) called Katrina Van Worst.—*New York Mercury*, 1888.

**KNICKNACKERY.**—Knicknacks, when spoken of in bulk.

**KNIFE, To.**—To stab; and, metaphorically, to conduct a contest with vigor.

This threat to **KNIFE** any other candidate is based on the highest authority, for it was, with characteristic audacity, put by Blaine himself.—*New York Evening Post*, February 24, 1888.

—**KNIFING PROCESS.**—The cutting down of rates; economization.

The demoralization which has paralyzed Western rates has extended to Texas in spite of all efforts to maintain prices there. The **KNIFING PROCESS** in the South-west has been carried to such extreme lengths that mere re-adjustment of Texas schedules is out of the question, and the Texas managers have been compelled to work with the other associations for a settlement of the entire question.—*Missouri Republican*, February 22, 1888.

**KNIGHTS OF LABOR.**—A most powerful organization of working-men, similar to an English Trades' Union,

but infinitely stronger, both as regards membership and finance. It possesses branches connected with every known trade, and is affiliated with kindred societies in England and on the Continent, besides having sections comprised of female members only.

It is reported that the **KNIGHTS OF LABOR** will do their utmost to defeat the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers in their threatened strike on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy. The company's managers not only depend upon using every man in their employ who can manage a locomotive, but it is expected that at least two hundred men will be secured from among the **KNIGHTS OF LABOR** at Philadelphia and at Reading.—*Philadelphia Bulletin*, February 27, 1888.

—Another large organization of the kind is the **KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS**.

**KNOB.**—Primarily a Kentuckian term for the rounded hills or knolls frequently met with in some portions of that State, and caused by atmospheric influences on the sandstone formation. Now applied to smooth mounds or hills throughout the Union—hence (1) **KNOBBY** for hilly. (2) In New York **KNOBBY** is synonymous with bully; capital; first-rate—a perversion of nobby. —**KNOBITE.**—An inhabitant of the *knob* region of Kentucky. It is said that these people exhibit peculiar characteristics, and are easily discernible from the other denizens of the State.—**KNOBLICKS.**—Salt formations in the *knob* district, which constitute favorite resorts for domestic, and, in past times, for wild animals. — See **LICK**.

**KNOCK DOWN, To.**—To embezzle; to appropriate surreptitiously. This is in addition to its ordinary English slang significations. — **KNOCK-DOWN AND DRAG OUT.**—In pugilistic circles, a fight carried to

extremities—till one man is so thoroughly exhausted that he has to be carried out.—To **KNOCK OUT THE WEDGES**.—To leave in an embarrassed condition; to desert. An expression probably borrowed from the phraseology of building operatives. When the wedges are knocked out scaffolding loses all its strength.—**KNOCKED-UP**.—*Enceinte*. De Vere says this is a characteristic mode of speech on the part of his countrymen and women, and, he might also have added, a coarse one. An amusing story is told of an English traveller who, enquiring after a lady's health, was told by her sister that she was *knocked-up*. He insisted upon knowing what had brought on the excessive fatigue—for so he understood the term—and was only more embarrassed than the lady, whom he fairly put to flight, by learning afterwards that the phrase was used in speaking of ladies when in an interesting condition.

**KNOCKER**.—Probably the curtailment of the English slang phrase "up to the *knocker*"; when a person or thing is said to be a *knocker* the highest praise is intended.

Mrs. — was looking just too scrumptious for anything. Neat, clean-cut, effective and plump, and so gracefully rounded, her figure was a **KNOCKER**, and the wind catching her veil blew it aside from her pretty features, and made the coyest and most winning picture that you ever saw.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, April 29, 1888.

**KNOW NOTHINGS**.—A secondary designation of the **AMERICAN PARTY** organized in New York in 1853 by E. Z. C. Judson, better known as Ned Buntline. Members of the party answered all questions concerning it with the response, "I don't know," whence the popular name. The secret name is said to have been "The Sons of '76." The cardinal principle of the society was that

"Americans must rule America." After some notable successes at the polls, the society went to pieces, owing to the extreme measures proposed by its leaders. These declared war to the hilt against Roman Catholics, advocated the repeal of all naturalization laws, and reserved all offices for native-born Americans. It did not altogether disappear from national politics until 1860. A curious local meaning is found in Massachusetts, where the crossing of two railroads at grade is termed a *know nothing*. The name is applied in consequence of a railroad accident which occurred just before the election of Governor Gardner in 1854. He was the *know nothing* candidate, and his first official act was to secure the passage of a law requiring all trains to stop before reaching such a crossing.

Shakespeare Caldwell, Miss Caldwell's father, was also of the Presbyterian faith, and during the days of **KNOW NOTHING** excitement was an active sympathizer with that party. Mrs. Caldwell was also of the same faith, but late in life Mr. and Mrs. Caldwell embraced the Catholic religion.—*New York World*, May, 1888.

'I suppose you know he was a **KNOW NOTHING**?' 'He was, eh? That settles his hash with the German settlement in Crosby Creek, and Pat Malloy, who is going to start a saloon, will be down on him. I suppose Harrison will poll a single one of the nineteen Irish votes in this county. All the Catholics will vote against him on his **KNOW NOTHING** record. I reckon I can manage to throw a little life into the campaign, after all.'—*Texas Siftings*, 1888.

A derivative is *know nothingism*, with similar meaning.

**KNUCK** (Cant).—(1) A thief.—(2) A contraction of **CANUCK**.—*See CANACK*.

**KONCK**.—A wrecker.

**KONE**.—Spurious money, either paper or specie. — **KONIACKER**. — A coiner of counterfeit money.



**KOOL SLAA.**—A cabbage salad; from the Dutch *kool salade*. Vulgarly called COLD SLAW.

**KOOTOO, To.**—To bow; to make courteous obeisance. *Kootoo* or *ketow* is the exact Chinese synonym of the Hindoo "Salaam."

**KOORYAH ROOT.**—(*Valeiana officinalis* or *edulis*). A poisonous root, which, however, prepared like the CASSAVA (*q.v.*), is made into bread by Indians in Oregon and elsewhere.

**KU-KLUX-KLAN.**—A secret association of Southerners formed shortly after the war. It was otherwise known as "The Invisible Empire," "The Knights of the White Camellia," "The Knights of the Golden Circle," and by a score of other names. It is said on good authority (see *Century Magazine*, July, 1884) to have been originally organized by a few young men for amusement during the period of stagnation after the close of hostilities. It soon, however, outgrew the design of its founders, branches being established all over the South, and its political influence becoming almost absolute. That it was directly and indirectly chargeable with outrages against settlers from the North, and against negroes,

is not to be denied, but it is also believed that it was largely instrumental in preserving order during a period when lawlessness was rife at the South. The name was an alliterative corruption of the Greek *κυκλος* (a circle), the *Klan* being added to enhance the strange jingle of consonants. The Southern negroes, who lived in mortal terror of the *Klan*, believed that the name was associated with certain audible "clucks," by means of which signals were supposed to be interchanged during midnight raids. The *Ku-Klux-Klan* was founded in June 1866, and it was nominally disbanded by its presiding "Grand Wizard" in February, 1869. *Ku-Klux* raids were common, however, for several years after that date.

With the police departments and the courts of justice managed in the interests of the whites, to have opened a race war would have been to expose the negroes to the old misrepresentations, impositions and personal insecurity with which the *Ku-Klux* era made the country so sadly familiar.—*Philadelphia Bulletin*, February 27, 1888.

The Republicans of this State denounce and condemn such acts on the part of the Northern Republican leaders. They have no patience with the men who deserted the Republicans of the South in 1876 and 1877 and turned them over to the tender mercies of the *Ku-Klux*, the Red Shirts, the Magnolia Clubs, and other organizations of like nature, and left them to work out their own salvation amid fear and trembling, or perish from off the face of the earth.—*New York Weekly Times*, March 21, 1888.





**ABRADOR TEA** (*Ledum palustre* and *latifolium*).—A substitute in the Northwest for tea; other make-shifts are also known in the States.

**LACEHORSE.**—(Texas.) A trig, smirky little horse.

**LADY.**—The misuse of this word in America is notorious; perhaps, however, no perversion of language has been so scathingly satirized. As J. R. Lowell admits, the abuse of the word is villainous, and the causes are laid deep down in the roots of Democracy. But, however excusable, and indeed praiseworthy, may be the underlying principle, for "when Adam delved and Eve span, who was then the gentleman," the results are none the less deplorable. Americans, in seeking to avoid the Scylla of aristocratic snobbery, have by undue emphasis, floundered into the Charybdis of republican sans culottism. The author of the *Biglow Papers* further points out that the Italian *donna* has been treated in the same way by a whole nation, and not as *lady*, among the Americans, by the uncultivated only. He seeks to mitigate the enormity by pointing out that similar sins were committed in the Mother Country in the seventeenth century, and cites examples. Two wrongs, however, do not make one right; and it would be difficult to

find instances which surpass in glaring atrociousness and magnitude the colloquial perversion in question. It is only since the war, however, that this abuse of terms has become so marked. Shortly after the close of the Rebellion, the negroes began to call each other "*lady*" and "gentleman," but in speaking of the whites, they generally referred to them as that "man" and that "woman." An instance occurred a few years ago in which Gen. W. T. Sherman played a part. The general was sitting in front of his house one pleasant evening with some friends, smoking and talking, when a fellow as black as the ace of spades sidled up, and, addressing the general, said: "Is de a *lady* here named Johnson?" "No," said the general. "Well," said the darky, "I think there must be a *lady* of that name living here, because she is my wife, and she is working for a woman named Sherman." Now, *lady* is either derisively applied to, or (and here lies the gist of the whole matter) vain-gloriously insisted upon by those acting in a menial or dependent capacity. Ridiculous as is the picture presented by the following quotation, it is gratifying to think that it has its reverse side, and that the honorable title of "woman" has a better chance of taking its true place in the noble English tongue. To such lengths is prudery of this stamp carried, that according to some they were not women who stood around the cross, but

*ladies*, and the tender loving title in "Woman! what have I to do with thee?" gives place to the emasculated "*Lady!* what have I to do with thee?"

All Ladies.—'Ah, Mrs. Genteel, how do you do to-day? It is an age since I have seen you. How is your daughter Katie? I haven't seen her for a long time.'

'She's quite well, thank you. She is SALES-LADY now at Plush and Silk's stores.'

'Indeed? And your daughter Mamie?'

'Oh, Mamie is FORE-LADY in the new tomato canning establishment.'

'I hadn't heard that. Is Lulu at home now?'

'No, she has gone to Hartford as WAITING-LADY to a very wealthy and aristocratic woman living there.'

'Oh, has she? Then you have only Lena at home, I presume?'

'Oh, no; Lena has just accepted a situation as a NURSE-LADY in the family of Judge K. She has an elegant place.'

'So you are living alone?'

'No, we have given up our house for the winter, and I am now COOK-LADY at Mrs. Blank's boarding-house.'—*Tid Bits*, 1888.

(Scene up stairs.) Servant—Missus! missus! the BEGGAR LADY is down stairs, and I hare the ash gentleman knockin' at the gate. —*Philadelphia Times*, 1888.

—A sarcastic comment may be fitly introduced here in the thief's definition of *lady*.—In the jargon of his class it means a humped-back woman.—We find also that the feminine branch of the Knights of Labor, style themselves LADY KNIGHTS OF LABOR.

An assembly of LADY KNIGHTS OF LABOR was organized as No. 3, or Sunfield Lodge, last night, Hon. Robert Linn, member of the National District Assembly, No. 135, officiating in the organization, and afterwards installing the officers for the ensuing year. Some twenty or twenty-five LADIES were organized as charter members.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, February 16, 1888.

**LADIES' TRESSES** (*Neotti atortillis*).—A Southern name for this herb, from the flowers bearing a supposed resemblance to curls.

**LAFAYETTE FISH** (*Leistormus obliquus*).—So named in New York, it is said,

in honor of General Lafayette, from the fact that this delicious sea-fish one summer arrived in the waters of New York harbor precisely at the same time when General Lafayette paid his last visit to America. It abounds mainly on the coast of New Jersey, and, as people there appreciate the delicacy fully, it is also called CAPE MAY GOODY.

**LAGER BEER.**—TO THINK NO LAGER BEER OF ONESELF, *i.e.*, to be self-opinionated—a mere variant of the English slang, "to think no small beer, etc."

John Ruskin thinks no LAGER BEER of himself. He knows something about pictures and Venice stones. He is boss on these points; but when he breaks out in bursts of opinion on railroads and other modern inventions that make life in this fog end of the nineteenth century somewhat different to that of the ancient Britons, his knowledge of the spirit of the present age turns out to be mighty small pumpkins.—*Texas Siftings*, June 23, 1880.

**LAGNIAPPE.**—Something thrown in; over and above; good measure. BROTUS (*q.v.*) is a synonym.

We picked up one excellent word—a word worth travelling to New Orleans to get; a nice limber, expressive, handy word—LAGNIAPPE. They pronounce it lanny-yap. It is Spanish—so they said. We discovered it at the head of a column of odds and ends in the *Picayune* the first day; heard twenty people use it the second; inquired what it meant the third; adopted it and got facility in swinging it the fourth. It has a restricted meaning, but I think the people spread it out a little when they choose. It is the equivalent of the thirteenth roll in a baker's dozen. It is something thrown in, gratis, for good measure. The custom originated in the Spanish quarter of the city. When a child or a servant buys something in a shop—or even the mayor or the governor, for aught I know—he finishes the operation by saying, 'Give me something for LAGNIAPPE.' The shopman always responds; gives the child a bit of liquorice-root, gives the servant a cheap cigar or a spool of thread, gives the governor—I don't know what he gives the governor; support, likely. When you are invited to drink, and this does occur now and then in New Orleans—and you say,



'What again?—no, I've had enough,' the other party says, 'But just this one time more—this is for LAGNIAPPE.' When the beau perceives that he is stacking his compliments a trifle too high, and sees by the young lady's countenance that the edifice would have been better with the top compliment left off, he puts his 'I beg pardon—no harm intended,' into the briefer form of 'Oh, that's for LAGNIAPPE.' If the waiter in the restaurant stumbles and spills a gill of coffee down the back of your neck, he says, 'For LAGNIAPPE, sah,' and gets you another cup without extra charge.—*Mark Twain's Life on the Mississippi*, pp. 404, 405.

**LAGRANGED.**—TO BE LAGRANGED.—To experience chagrin. A Southern general, more conspicuous for courage than culture, wishing to reprimand his "old regiment" for riotous conduct in a town in Tennessee, commenced by saying that he "felt deeply *lagranged*." The word thus accidentally coined has become a common expression for chagrined.

**LAKE LAWYER.**—The DOG-FISH (*q.v.*).

**LAKE STATE.**—Michigan. From its being surrounded by four of the large Northern lakes—Michigan, Huron, Superior, and Erie. This State is also called the WOLVERINE STATE (*q.v.*).

**LAM, To.**—To beat; to thrash; to drub. This word, partially colloquial in America, is provincial in Yorkshire. Few words have been the subject of more dispute. Bartlett quotes it as derived from the Belg. (*sic.*) *lamen*; but both this and Scott's derivation from a Dr. Lamb, are equally faulty. *Lam* is probably a direct descendant of the old Norse and Gaelic *lam*, a hand. The term *lamming* for a beating is quoted in the Slang Dictionary; these expressions, however, as far as America is concerned, are colloquial, and may be regarded as survivals of

Old English usage.—A derivative is LAMBASTING, a beating; also to LAMBAST. These also are slang in the Mother Country, Hotten deriving the word from "lumb-basting" from the lumber regions. More likely, however, it is a pleonasm formed by uniting to *lam*, and "to baste."

**LAMANTIN.**—The SEA COW or MANATEE. This cetacean is regarded as furnishing the small basis of fact for the mermaid myth. In this case the original is "a long way after" the ideal.

**LAMAS.**—In the slang of the gaming-table *lamas* are chips or tokens representing in value about £5, £10, and £25 each.

**LAMB-KILL.**—See CALF-KILL.

**LAMB'S QUARTER** (*Chenopodium album*).—A popular Southern name for a well-known herbage. !

**LAND.**—In the United States terms connected with the land vary but slightly from English usage. The principles, however, upon which it is dealt with cause a slight variation in meaning, the chief of which are appended.—**LAND.**—A road fenced on both sides. A Carolina usage.—**LAND BROKER** (Cant).—An undertaker.—**LAND GRABBERS.**—These gentry are not peculiar to the States, though Uncle Sam has had to keep his weather eye open to check the impudence and pertinacity with which men, under the pretence of carrying out works of national importance, sought in a measure to create in the New World a new monopoly, of the *land*, and thus perpetrate one of the crying evils of the English social system. In other directions, too, checks have been applied to pre-

vent English capitalists from acquiring an undue proportion of what, coming down to first principles, is the very life-source of national existence.—**LAND GRANTS**.—Grants of public land, usually made to companies and corporate bodies, ostensibly for the carrying out of important improvements, such as building railways, constructing telegraphs, etc. Commendable enough in theory, in practice this course has opened the door for all kinds of public jobbery.—**LAND OFFICE**.—The disposal and control of public lands is vested in a General *Land Office* at Washington, branch offices having been established in other places.—**LAND SCRIP**.—A receipt for monies paid on account of land.—**LAND WARRANTS**.—Authorizations issued by the General Land Office at Washington, entitling the possessor to take up new and uncultivated land.—**LAND CRAB**.—A variant of land-lubber, both being sea terms for a landsman.—**LAND JUMPER**.—*See* JUMP.—**LAND YARD** (Cant).—A cemetery.

**LANDLADY**.—To HANG THE LANDLADY is to decamp without payment; applied to "moonshining" practices of all descriptions. An equivalent is "to stand off the tailor."

**LAND OF STEADY HABITS**.—Connecticut; a tribute, it cannot be doubted, to the personal qualities of its inhabitants.

**LAND-SAKES**!—An exclamation of surprise. Probably a corruption of "for the Lord's sake"—**LAUD'S SAKE**, and then by erroneous writing or printing the substitution of "n" for "u" in the first word.

'Well, poor Smith! He is rid of that talkative wife of his.'

'**LAND SAKES**! Did she drown?'—*Ascola Democrat*, 1888.

'**LAND SAKES**! Ben Dixon!' came in contemptuous tones from Aunt Ann's secluded corner. 'That poor cretur never had the spunk to kill himself. I knew 'twa'n't so when I saw it in the paper, and Almiry Freeman heard that 'twas an accident, and he was doin' well.'—*Harper's Weekly*, January 21, 1883.

**LANDSCAPIST**.—An artist, whose *forte* is to depict landscapes. A hybrid form.

**LAP, TO**.—(1) The boy who "throws" candy, papers, etc., to passengers in the cars is said to *lap* them.—(2) In sport, to pass; to get ahead.—**LAP-TEA**.—An informal afternoon meal, where sitting at table is dispensed with. Although the meaning of *lap-tea* is obviously literal, it proved a sad stumbling block to De Vere, who defined it as "the quaint name given in New England to tea-parties, where the guests sit in each other's laps for want of room." Bartlett, too, seemed disinclined to risk committing himself, for he is contented with quoting Lowell, who had called attention to its omission from the first edition—"where the guests are too many to sit at table."

**LARIAT**.—A twisted or braided raw hide or horse-hair rope, used for catching and tethering cattle and horses. Also called a *Lasso* (*q.v.*). *Lariat* is from the Spanish *la reata*.—**TO LARIAT OUT**.—To stake out or tether with a *lariat*.

You see a feller peekin' out, an fust you know,  
A **LARIAT**  
Is round your throat an' you a copse 'fore you  
can say, 'Wut air ye at?'  
—*Biglow Papers*.

Tracks seen early in the evening, just before camping, had shown that wild horses were in the vicinity, and this made us keep our own horses close to the picket-line; otherwise they would be **LARIATED OUT**.—*Century Magazine*, 1888.

Frequently used idiomatically; thus, land *lariat*ed out is that bought from the Government, but not yet occupied.

**LARIGO.**—A ring forming part of the huge Mexican saddle of the Southwest. Through it are passed the *latigos* or thongs which connect the cinches with the saddle.

**LARREY** (Cant).—Cunning. This is probably a corruption of "leary."

**LASO.**—A long rope with a running noose, made either of plaited rawhide, twisted horsehair, or other equally suitable substance. On the Western plains the *lasso* forms the chief means by which horses, mules, and cattle are caught, and plainsmen exhibit considerable skill in the art of using it. From the Spanish *lazo*, a noose. Hence **TO LASO.**—See **LARIAT**.

The earliest suggestion of rope-making is to be found pictured in some of the tombs of the ancient Egyptians. It was flax, and not hemp, that these people used for making twines and the smaller ropes or cordage, by twisting the fibres continuously together. For what we know as rope, they used the fibres of the date-tree, which are applied even at the present day to the same purpose. They also took narrow strings of leather, produced in an elongated form by the circular cut and twined or twisted these into ropes. In like manner, the hunters on the Pampas plains and in Mexico thus make the **LASSO** with which they so adroitly catch wild horses and other animals.—*Troy Daily Times*, Feb. 4, 1888.

**LATE UNPLEASANTNESS.**—A euphemism for the late Civil War.

It is reported that he was a Colonel in Jeff Davis' recruits, and is suspected of being the same redoubtable Colonel Liddell who figured prominently in the Louisiana Tigers, a corps of Confederate sharpshooters during the **LATE UNPLEASANTNESS.**—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, March 7, 1888.

**LATHY.**—Thin; slim; lath-like.

**LATITAT** (Cant).—A lawyer; an attorney.

**LATTER DAY SAINTS.**—The Mormons. A self-applied appellation: saints in name, but far from saints in practice.

**LAURELISTIC.**—Worthy of being crowned with laurel.

**LAVE!**—A corruption of the French *lève* (imperative), *i.e.*, Get up!—A morning summons amongst plainsmen. In the early morning a camp will be aroused by cries of *lave! lave!* and, in a twinkling, all will be bustle and preparation for a start.

How I hated the slow, steady **LAVE! LAVE!** of our old trapper, when his moccasined foot touched my side, and I had to rouse myself for another day's tramp through the endless wilderness!—*Scenes in the Far West*.

**LAW, TO.**—To go to law; a Western colloquialism. — **LAW-DAY**, the day on which, in thinly-populated districts, an itinerant magistrate administers the law. — **STABBING THE LAW.**—A slang phrase meaning to rail against any duly authorized authority, or the "powers that be."

The Anarchists of Chicago are once more at large. The 18th inst. was the anniversary of the Paris Commune, and the rag-tag of socialism, anarchism, and communism turned out in large numbers with red flags, and marched to a chosen spot to hear their favorite orators. These speakers were as violent as ever, and gave no evidence of having relinquished their favorite plan of **STABBING THE LAW.**—*Nevada City Journal*, February, 1888.

**LAWS! LAWS-A-ME! LAW-SAKES! LAW SAKES ALIVE! LAW SUDS!**—All corruptions of "For the Lord's sake," or "The Lord save us." In England the equivalent phrase is "Lawk's a mercy," *i.e.*, "The Lord have mercy."



**LAWYER.**—(1) (*Himantopus nigricolus*).

—A small bird which bears other popular names — tilt and long shanks. It is said that the people of New Jersey have facetiously called it the *lawyer*, "on account of its long bill."—(2) In Canada a fish of the genus *Lota* is also so-called.—(3) In the States no distinction is made, as in England, between a solicitor and a barrister; all legal advisers are lawyers.

**LAY.**—To LAY ON THICK, to flatter.

This usage has extended to and become colloquial in England.—To LAY ONE OUT.—To get the better of one; to secure an advantage; to defeat—a simile derived from the "laying out" of a corpse.

How they came to be his antagonists is neither here nor there for the present purpose, but they had staked a good deal on LAYING HIM OUT, and were moving heaven and earth, as the phrase goes, to accomplish their purpose.

—LAY OUT.—A party; company; an outfit (*q.v.*).

Several persons in our LAY OUT in New Mexico swapped good American horses for mustangs, for some little boot of onions or such like truck, and made about as good bargains as Moses Primrose, when he exchanged a horse for a lot of old green spectacles.—*Overland Monthly*.

**LAZE, To.**—This, in the sense of to act lazily, to idle about, is not common; indeed, it is doubtful whether it is more than an individualism.

**LEADER.**—The length of fine hair or gut connecting a fishing line with the hook. Another name for it is a SNELL.

**LEAF** (Cant).—Autumn. In this, as in many cant terms, there seems to exist a certain kind of perverted correspondence.

**LEAGUE OF THE ROSE.**—The *League of the Rose*, which is yet in its infancy, is a national society, modelled after the Primrose League of England, and was started at Ottawa, Canada, last summer. Its object is "to maintain religion, liberty, and the British Empire," so the prospectus says. It includes men and women of every class in its ranks.

**LEAP THE BOOK** (Cant).—A bogus marriage.

**LEATHER** (Cant).—A pocket book—TO PULL OFF LEATHER is, therefore, to steal pocket-books or purses.

When we got to Chicago on the cars from there to here, i PULLED OFF an old woman's leather: i hadn't no more than got it off when i wished i hadn't donn it, for awhile before that i made up my mind to be a square bloke.—*Mark Twain's Life on the Mississippi*, p. 459.

—LEATHERHEADS.—The nickname given of old to policemen or watchmen.

Here the old police or LEATHERHEADS tried to restrain them, but in vain. Hostilities took place, several of the police were killed and several mortally wounded.—*New York Mercury*, July 21, 1888.

Garsight, who had keen ears and eyes, was to keep watch for the terrible LEATHERHEADS or watchmen.—*Ibid*.

—TO GO TO LEATHER.—A ranchman's term used when, in riding a plunging horse, a man grasps the saddle to avoid being thrown.

Up rises the broncho's back into an arch; his head, the ears laid straight back, goes down between his fore feet, and, squealing savagely, he makes a succession of rapid, stiff-legged, jarring bounds. . . . After a few jumps, however, the average man grasps hold of the horn of the saddle—the delightful onlookers meanwhile earnestly advising him not to GO TO LEATHER—and is contented to get through the affair in any shape, provided he can escape without being thrown off.—*Ranch Life in the Far West*.

—LEATHER WOOD (*Dirca palustris*).  
—Also called MOOSE WOOD; and, in  
New England, WICOPY (*q.v.*).

LEFT BOWER.—See BOWER.

LEGADEROS. — A Spanish - Mexican term for stirrup straps. *Legaderos* is probably not Castilian; it looks as if it might have been derived from the root of the noun *legadura*, ligature, but it is not. It seems to be the solitary instance of an English word passing into the Spanish or Mexican, and coming back to us, disguised as a fine Spanish change-ling. The straps which hold the stirrups on many of the large Mexican saddles are, in fact, leg-guards, and this seems to be the homely Cinderella whom the Spanish tongue, like a true prince, transformed into its *legaderos*.

LEGAL SKULL AND CROSSBONES.—To provide against misadventure, the law regulating the sale of poisons in America, enacts that a label, bearing the device of a death's head and crossbones, shall be attached to each bottle or packet. In England, a similar label with the word "Poison" printed in red letters is used.

In the centre of the flag-bottomed chair was a clot of congealed blood. The razor, although more off the chair than on it, was held fast by the dried blood. Upon the bottle was a label *Landanum*, and, as if in glee at the stern corollary of its deadly mission, there were the LEGAL SKULL AND CROSSBONES, printed in red ink.—*New York Morning Journal*, 1898.

LEG DRAMA.—A ballet. Theatres, where stage dancing forms a prominent feature of the entertainment, are similarly called LEG-SHOPS.

'Nothing, sir,' was the reply; 'only they're playing 'Undine' at the Opera House, and some folks call it the LEG SHOP, and I didn't

know but what, being a stranger here, you didn't like to ask right out for it.'—*Mark Twain's Screemers*.

LEG STRETCHER.—TO TAKE A LEG STRETCHER is to take a drink. Obviously from the fact that "to stretch one's legs" more often than not, is synonymous with walking to the refreshment bar and back again. Somewhat akin is the excuse of "going out to see a man" when leaving one's seat between the acts at a theatre. Both these, and many other phrases, are now regarded as "an excuse for a glass."

LENGTHY, LENGTHILY, LENGTHINESS.—These words, now quite orthodox, were of American origin. J. Russell Lowell says America has given back to England the excellent adjective *lengthy*, formed honestly like *earthy*, *droughty*, and others, thus enabling journalists to characterize the President's messages by a word civilly compromising between "long" and "tedious," so as not to endanger the peace of the two countries by wounding national sensitiveness to British criticism.

LENTEN.—TO BE LENTEN, *i.e.*, starving; to have nothing to eat. The allusion is obviously to the fasting observed during Lent.

LET, TO.—This verb has entered into many slang combinations on both sides of the Atlantic. Among American colloquialisms of the kind are—To LET DOWN, and a LET DOWN—the former to express the giving of a rebuff, the latter the rebuff itself. This idiom, however, is indefinitely extended.

As it seems pretty evident that the sovereigns of Europe, instead of occupying or sharing thrones, are predestined to the walks of private life, it would be highly proper to cultivate in them a spirit of self-

abnegation and humility. If the royal parents wish to see their offsprings LET DOWN EASY from their high estate, they will adopt this course. Keel over they must, and a gradual careen would be much better than a sudden capsize. Now that the people are assuming the rights and privileges of sovereignty, we trust that they will have some consideration for princes in distress.—*New York Sunday Despatch*.

—LET HER RIP is varied by LET HER WENT, which Bartlett erroneously thinks "had its origin in steam-boating." In reality this most vulgar of vulgarisms doubtless originated in the expression of a tender desire for the repose of some departed loved one. It has most probably been adopted from a monumental inscription frequently to be found in English and Continental cemeteries by some one not an active member of the "Academy of Inscriptions." It should be written R.I.P. (*Requiescat in pace*—May he rest in peace). Its present signification has, of course, undergone that curious transition of meaning so often found in slang. The idea it now conveys is one of intensity of action or of extreme emphasis of language, borrowed, no doubt, in part from the quasi-orthodox signification of to rip.

We just set there, and watched him rip and tear around till he drowned.—*Mark Twain's Huckleberry Finn*.

—To LET ON.—To pretend. The American usage varies a little, though slightly, from English slang and the Scotch colloquialism. In the last two instances it denotes the giving an intimation of having some knowledge of a subject, and in this sense was employed by Ramsay in *The Gentle Shepherd*. In America, however, it is a mere pretence.

In order to get a chance to fly his kite on Sunday, he used to hang a key on the string, and LET ON to be fishing for lightning.—*Mark Twain's Bad Boy*.

With a malevolence, which is without parallel in history, he would work all day, and then sit up nights, and LET ON to be studying algebra by the light of a smouldering fire, so that all other boys might have to do that also, or else have Benjamin Franklin thrown up to them.—*Ibid*.

—To LET OUT.—To commence; to begin; or to make a statement or explanation.—To LET SLIDE is, of course, a very old English expression, which, however, has obtained a new life from General N. P. Banks' famous remark made at the beginning of the late Civil War, "Let the Union slide."—LETTING THE FINGER RIDE THE THUMB TOO OFTEN is a delicate allusion, in the figurative language of the South-west, to intemperance, the result being, as it is truly though vulgarly said, that the "eyesight weakens on it."—To LET UP.—To release, and similarly, A LET UP is a relief; a break; both expressions are taken from pugilistic slang.

It was a rainy day on which the third battalion of the First Massachusetts Cavalry arrived at Warrenton, Va. It rained for three days, almost without a LET UP, after we reached our destination.—*Troy Daily Times*, 1888.

The indications are that the racing will approach the first-class order from now until the close of the regular meeting in April. There will be a LET UP of a few days, maybe a week, between the close of the Winter Meeting and the opening of the Spring Meeting.—*The Spirit of the Times*, 1888.

When every rabbit is killed, the coyotes sit down on their haunches to a very comfortable banquet, and never LET UP until they have taken aboard so much rabbit-meat that they can hardly stir.—*San Francisco Weekly Examiner*, March 22, 1888.

LETCHED (Cant).—When a house-breaker's progress is barred by unexpected fastenings, he says the door or window is letched.

LEVÉE.—An embankment. From the French *levée*; this term is common throughout Louisiana, especially in



the lower part of that State, which has been gradually reclaimed from the sea. So also to *LEVEE*. The lower reaches of the Mississippi are *leveed* for hundreds of miles.

We go ashore at Belair, a plantation celebrated for its careful and systematic field work. The planter is waiting upon the *LEVEE* for his guests.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

A group of steam-boats lie with their noses against the bank. These are the sugar-boats, and this particular portion of the city's protecting embankment is called the sugar *LEVEE*.—*Ibid.*

**LEVEL.**—TO DO ONE'S LEVEL BEST, *i.e.*, to perform to the full extent of one's ability.—*LEVEL HEADED* is applied to men with well-balanced minds—practical, shrewd, and possessing common sense.—TO DO THINGS ON A BROAD LEVEL implies stability and fixedness; thus, a *broad level* price is the fixed price—one that will neither be raised nor lowered. The common origin of all these phrases is to be found in mining phraseology. "Now, pardner, I feel that I can't drift no further on this *level*, and I guess I've got to go down lower."

**LEVY.**—A local name in some States for a Spanish silver coin of the value of twelve and a half cents—a contraction of "elevenpence." Both term and coin are now obsolete in America. According to Hotten, a *levy* is a Liverpool word for a shilling, and among labourers a *levy* is a sum obtained before it is due; something to keep a man going till Saturday night comes, or his task is finished.

**LEWISITES.**—A local New York term applied to the supporters of Morgan Lewis, who was Governor in 1804. It was the "swell" party of the day.

**LIE** (Cant).—Sleep is so named.—*LIBBEGE.*—A bed.—*LIBBEN.*—A private house.—*LIBKEN.*—A lodging house. It is curious to note that a house, whether private or semi-public, is here regarded as merely a sleeping-place—a forcible commentary on the habits of the class in question.

**LIBERAL.**—This term acquired a renewed significance from a movement headed by Carl Schurz in Missouri, in 1870, which resulted in a division of the local Republicans into *Liberals* and "Radicals," the latter being equivalent to *STALWART* as more recently used. It is also used in combination with other party names.

**LIBERTY POLE.**—A flagstaff surmounted by a Cap of Liberty—an emblem of American institutions frequently found in the cities of the Republic of the West.

**LICK.**—The fondness of both wild and domesticated animals for salt has resulted in saline deposits, and springs, being called *licks*. A famous resort of this kind in Kentucky is called the *BIG BONE LICK* (*q.v.*), from the immense quantities of bones found there.—TO *LICK* (Cant).—To coax.

**LICKETY SPLIT.**—TO GO LICKETY SPLIT, *i.e.*, with violent exertion—probably a variation formed on the ancient cant *lycke*, to excel, to overcome.

**LIE, TO.**—To bear examination; or "to hold water."

The court held also that there was no proof that the girl was convinced that she was about to die when she made a dying declaration, and expressed belief that no conviction of murder in the first degree would *LIE*. A new trial was granted.—*New York Evening Post*, February 24, 1888.

—To LIE AROUND LOOSE.—A man of loafing habits is said to *lie around loose*. — ANOTHER LIE NAILED TO THE COUNTER!—A colloquialism, the meaning of which is obvious—a detected slander.

'Who employed you last?' 'A Republican speaker, who had me back up his declaration that Cleveland was in the habit of beating his wife.' 'But that LIE was nailed a good while ago.' 'I know it,' chuckled the C. L., 'but it is easy enough to pull out the nail.'—*Texas Siftings*, October 20, 1888.

The *La Junta Tribune* has scooped all the papers in the State by *nailing* the first campaign LIE this season.—*Denver Republican*, May 6, 1888.

—A LIE MADE OUT OF WHOLE CLOTH, *i.e.*, an out-and-out falsehood.

LIFE EVERLASTING.—A plant, the blossom of which, when dried, is like the French "Immortelle," very durable.

LIFT.—To LIFT HAIR.—To scalp. A frequent colloquialism in the West. This, like to scalp, is often used idiomatically in the sense of to annihilate.—ON THE LIFT.—On the move.

I can conceive but of one extenuation; Bolus was ON THE LIFT for Texas, and the desire was natural to qualify himself for citizenship.—*Flush Times of Alabama*.

LIFTERS (Cant).—Crutches.

LIGHT-HOUSE (Cant).—A man with a very red nose—a warning signal in every sense of the word.

LIGHTNING EXPRESS.—A sobriquet applied on many railways to a quick travelling train. The American is nothing if not graphic in his phraseology; to wit, a Western variant for the same, GREASED LIGHTNING.

Ye're 'bleest ter keep a steady han' an' a keen eye; but mo'n that, ye're 'bleesten ter

b'lieve thar's somebody bigger'n the president o' the road or the gen'l supe'intendent a-backin' of ye up. Ef ye don't, ye ain't no fittin' man fur ter run a LIGHTNIN' EXPRESS on that division.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

When the locomotive was introduced into this country it was soon pressed into the service of the newspapers. The New York journals make a great fuss about their special trains, and their LIGHTNING TRAINS, and all that, but the truth is that years and years ago old Horace Greely ran a faster special than has ever been run since, and on a poor railroad at that.—*New York Mercury*, 1888.

LIGHT OUT, TO.—To decamp hastily.

Her successor [one of Chip's nurses by John Happy], secured after a long and painful search, only remained with us a couple of hours. Remarking, incidentally, to another of the domestic retainers of the undersigned, as she was building a fire, 'Ef this warn't a d—d lonely ole hole.' It was considered that such a familiarity with the choicest expletives of our chaste language fitted her, perhaps, for a livelier sphere. She was, therefore, assisted to LIGHT OUT, or else she would be thrown out of a two-storey window by the scruff of the neck or the seat of her pantaloons—if she had any.—*Oddities of Southern Life*, 1883.

LIKELY.—In addition to the ordinary English signification, *likely* in America is used for estimable, sensible, etc. Webster, in his *Unabridged*, says:—"Such as may be liked; of honorable or excellent qualities or character; as a *likely* man or woman, that is, of good character or accomplishments that render him pleasing or respectable. It also has the general sense of promising."

LILYWHITE (Cant).—By a strange, though not unusual perversion, this term is applied to a negro and a chimney-sweep—both, one would think, of anything but a *lily-white* complexion.

LIMB.—Some Americans, especially women, with a mock-modesty, which is notorious, decline to call a leg a leg; they call it a *limb*

instead. This tendency is the more remarkable when the greater freedom extended to American girls and women is borne in mind, unless, indeed, it arises from guilty knowledge. White, who, perhaps, was rather given to excessive incisiveness of speech, remarked that perhaps such persons think that it is indelicate for women to have legs, and that therefore they are concealed by garments and should be concealed in speech. Professor Geikie, during one of his Canadian tours, also found out that both sexes had *limbs* of some sort; the difficulty was to discover whether they were used to stand on or to hold by. Sensible people everywhere, however, have little part in such prudery.

**LIMEKILL.**—A New Englandism for limekiln. So used by Gayton, and therefore, a survival.

**LIMIT** (in Poker).—A condition made at the beginning of a game, limiting the amount of any single bet or raise.

**LIMSY.**—This is current in New England for weak or flexible.

**LINCOLN SKINS.**—In South Carolina, a term signifying fractional currency.

**LINE, TO.** — See **SIDE-LINE.** — **TO LINE BEES.**—To track these insects to their haunts.

The Indian, he could circumvent and out-manœuvre at his own games, and at killing every kind of animal known in the woods or on the prairies; at fishing and at **LINING BEES**, the oldest and best hunters acknowledged Tom's supremacy.—*Santa Fe Expedition*, I., p. 53.

—**LINEMEN.**—An American railway term for plate-ways.

A force of **LINEMEN**, which arrived here from Philadelphia to-day, removed 700 poles from the track between Philadelphia and Washington.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, March 14, 1888.

—**TO HANDLE THE LINES.**—An equivalent of to handle the ribbons or reins.—**FIGHT IT OUT ON THIS LINE**, is a phrase which, originating with General Grant during the Civil War, became proverbial.

—**LINE RIDING.**—A plainsman's term for patrolling. In the winter the tract of country on which cattle are stationed is apportioned into *lines* or beats, to watch which men are set apart and made responsible.

In riding over the beat each man drives any cattle that have come near it back into the Bad Lands, and if he sees by the hoof-marks that a few have strayed out over the line very recently, he will follow and fetch them home. They must be shoved well back into the Bad Lands before a great storm strikes them; for if they once begin to drift in masses before an icy gale it is impossible for a small number of men to hold them, and the only thing is to let them go, and then to organize an expedition to follow them as soon as possible. **LINE RIDING** is very cold work, and dangerous too, when the men have to be out in a blinding snowstorm, or in a savage blizzard that takes the spirit in the thermometer far down below zero. In the worst storms it is impossible for any man to be out.—*Ranch Life in the Far West*.

**LINGUISTER** (pronounced *linkinster*).—A talkative busybody. This New England phrase is doubtless derived from sailor usage; amongst this class a *linguister* is an interpreter.

**LINTER.**—A Massachusetts term for a cattle feeding-trough.

**LIQUOR, TO, OR TO LIQUOR UP.**—To partake of drink. Although undoubtedly coming within the category of Americanisms by reason of more extended usage, this phrase was yet well known to the English people two hundred years ago.



**LIST, TO, LISTING.**—Terms used in cotton cultivation, and signifying to make ready plots of land.—

**LISTER.**—One who schedules or makes out lists. Not common, Bartlett affirming that he had heard it nowhere but in Connecticut.

**LITTLE.**—As a sobriquet *little* has been applied to many famous Americans; also to one State at least in the Union. Among those specially so known may be mentioned—

**LITTLE GIANT.**—A nickname for Stephen A. Douglas, who was small of stature, but of great intellect. When he was nominated for the Presidency in 1859, campaign clubs, calling themselves "Little Giants," were organized and uniformed after the manner of the *WIDEAWAKES* (*q.v.*).—

**LITTLE MAC.**—The army nickname of General George B. McClelland. It became conspicuous, politically, when he was the Democratic candidate for the Presidency in 1864.—

**LITTLE VAN.**—Martin Van Buren, eighth President of the United States.—

**LITTLE RHODY.**—Rhode Island, from its diminutive size as compared with other States in the Union, it being the smallest. Its acreage is only 1,306 square miles, whilst Texas contains 274,356 square miles, and is larger than Sweden and Norway together.

**LIVE.**—Quick, active.—An all-round commendatory adjective. Thus a *live* business man is one whose qualities in that respect are of the keenest description.—See **BEAT**.—

**LIVE OAK** (*Quercus virens*).—The evergreen oak.

**LIVE OUT, TO.**—In New England this is applied to men in service, and who reside with their employers.

**LIVER.**—To **CURL ONE'S LIVER.**—To experience intensity of feeling, enjoyable or otherwise.

I think that much the most enjoyable of all races is a steamboat race; but, next to that, I prefer the gay and joyous mule-rush. Two red-hot steamboats raging along, neck-and-neck, straining every nerve—that is to say, every rivet in the boilers—quaking and shaking and groaning from stem to stern, spouting white steam from the pipes, pouring black smoke from the chimneys, raining down sparks, parting the river into long breaks of hissing foam—this is sport that **MAKES A BODY'S VERY LIVER CURL** with enjoyment. A horse-race is pretty tame and colorless in comparison.—*Mark Twain's Life on the Mississippi*, pp. 414-415.

**LLANO.**—A Spanish-Mexican term for a plain or prairie, and still current in the South-western States.

**LOAN, TO.**—*Loan*, says R. G. White, is a noun and not a verb; it is the thing lent; but it may sound larger to some people to say they have *loaned* a thousand dollars when they mean that they have lent that amount. Lowell, always anxious to defend the "American Language," points out that it was used long ago in Albion's "England." Nevertheless, it must still continue to be classed as an Americanism if wide, exclusive, and almost universal usage can make it so.

'That five dollar I **LOANED** you some time ago, Fledgely,' observed Robinson, 'sets a good example to Christians.' 'Er-yes,' replied Fledgely, with an embarrassed laugh. 'How—how's that?' 'It keeps lent so well.'—*New York Sun*, 1888.

In order to facilitate a more careful study of the spectra of the brightest stars, Mrs. Draper has **LOANED** to the Observatory the 11 inch photographic telescope employed by her husband.—*Nation*, April 7, 1887.

**LOBBY, LOBBYIST.**—*Lobbyists* are persons who frequent the approaches to legislative halls, and seek to influence legislation by *lobbying*, which may mean argument or absolute bribery. The *lobby* is also called the "Third House."

His enemies—and what man has no enemies?—say that he doesn't want the bill to pass, and that he talks it to death on purpose to keep his job of professional promoter of legislation. This title is sometimes pronounced LOBBYIST for short.—*Troy Daily Times*, January 31, 1888.

**LOBLLOLLY BAY** (*Gordonia lasyanthus*).—A maritime tree flourishing in the Southern States; it also bears the name of the HOLLY-BAY. Its foliage is very ornamental, and the tree is consequently esteemed on this account.

**LOBLLOLLY PINE**.—This pine in the South is named the OLD FIELD PINE, and in Virginia the WHITE PINE.

**LOCALS**.—A newspaper term for items of local interest.—The preparation of such news for press is called LOCALIZING.

**LOCATE, To**.—To place; to settle in a particular spot or position. After long discussion this verb (which is still more frequently used in America than in England, and with much greater latitude of meaning) has forced its way into general use.

Mrs. Blanche Woods, of 200, Broadway, Quincy, Ill., has written to Chief Huebler with the hope of LOCATING her husband, Nathan Woods, a railroad man, whom she has not heard from for a year or more.—*Missouri Republican*, February 24, 1888.

—Hence LOCATOR, one who selects places or settles in a particular spot.—Also LOCATION, a particular place.

By the laws of the district, the LOCATORS or claimants of a ledge were obliged to do a fair and reasonable amount of work on their new property within ten days after the date of the LOCATION, or the property was forfeited, and any body could go and seize it that chose.—*Mark Twain's Roughing It*.

The settlement was one of the prettiest places on the Mississippi, —a perfect LOCATION; it had some defects, until the river made the cut-off at Shirt Tail Bend, which

remedied the evil.—*Thorpe's Big Bear of Arkansas*.

**LOCKRUMS**.—A factitious word for oddities of manner; or eccentricities.

I'd say to the members, don't come down here to Halifax with your LOCKRUMS about politics!—*Sam Slick's Clockmaker*.

**Loco**.—The history of this word is rather singular. In the Spanish it is an adjective, meaning mad, crack-brained. There is a plant on the plains which poisons cattle, and produces all the ordinary symptoms of insanity; and someone observing this called it loco-weed. From the substantive a verb sprang into use; cattle showing signs of madness were said to be *locoed*, and so finally the word extended to human beings. Some have derived these meanings from the plant itself, as if it had originally borne the name loco; but this is incorrect, the real process having been just the reverse.

**Loco-Foco**.—Thirty years ago the Democrats were quite generally nicknamed loco-focos. Originally the term was invented as an advertising "catch" by a New York dealer in matches and cigars. Its political application came about in this wise. In 1835 there was a split in Tammany Hall over the nomination of a candidate for Congress. The friends of each attempted to pack a meeting, and in the scene of confusion which ensued, the gas was turned off by connivance of one faction. The other faction, however, had, in anticipation of such a crisis, come provided with loco-foco matches and candles, and the room was at once relighted. The *Courier and Enquirer* dubbed the anti-monopolists who had used the matches loco-focos,

and the name was shortly affixed to the whole party.

When the Loco-focos take you round a corner, and try to honey-fogle you, as they say in Kentucky, ask them what are Cass's civil qualities.—*Speech of F. Smith at a Taylor Meeting, Washington.*

**LOG, To.**—Literally to fell trees and convert them into *logs*. The lumber industry, as woodcutting is called in America, has been, and perhaps is still, one of the most important on the continent.—

**LOG CABIN.**—As the word implies, a cabin made of logs, generally unhewn.—

**LOG CABIN AND HARD CIDER!**—A catch-phrase of the Presidential Campaign of 1839, in allusion to the antecedents of the candidates. Miniature *log cabins* and cider barrels were drawn in procession through the streets.—

**LOG CANOE.**—A canoe hollowed out of the trunk of a tree; also called *DUG OUT* (*q.v.*).—

**LOGGER.**—A lumberman or woodcutter.—

**LOGGING BEE.**—*See* **TO LOG AND BEE.**—

**LOGGING CAMP.**—The place where trees are cut; also applied to the cabin or hut occupied by those engaged in **LOGGING** operations.—

**LOGGING SWAMP.**—The spot where trees are being cut down for lumber; the word is often a misnomer, but, as the finest trees grow in swampy places, the term has passed into general use to designate any spot where trees are being felled.—

**LOG ROLLING.**—In addition to the primary meaning of this term in connection with the operations of lumbermen, it also possesses a widely spread political signification. The hardest part of the woodcutter's task commences when the trees have been felled and prepared for market. He then has to draw, drag, or otherwise convey them to the water's edge. As the time for transit approaches, the lumbermen of the

different camps, within a certain radius, join their forces, and by this means overcome every difficulty. This is called *log-rolling*. The process in politics is very similar. For example, two members of Congress, A and B, each have Bills which they wish to pass. A may have no real interest in B's measure, nor *vice versa*, but, as a matter of self interest, they both agree to support and vote for each other. It need hardly be said that thereby a door is opened for malpractice of all kinds.

**LOGIC CHOPPER.**—One given to metaphorical reasoning; or, as Brother Jonathan's vigorous vernacular expresses it, "one who would talk the hind leg off a cow."

**LOGICISE, To.**—To reason. A spurious word.

**LOGIE.**—(1) In the West Indies, and more especially in Demarara, the name for an open shed, in which the refuse of the sugar-cane is stored, previous to consumption as fuel.—(2) Inferior fish are called *logies* among cod-fishermen.

**LOGY.**—Dull; slow; prosy. Applied mainly to persons of Dutch descent, from *log*, with much the same meaning.

**LOMA.**—A Spanish-Mexican term for a flat-topped hill or ridge. The diminutive *LOMITA* is also met with in the regions once under Spanish rule.

**LONE STAR STATE.**—The State of Texas. The fact of the standard of this State bearing a single star in its centre is the origin of the nickname *Lone Star State*.



**LONG BIT.**—A defaced twenty-cent piece was once so called.—**LONG KNIVES.**—An Indian term for white men, in allusion to their swords. The origin of the term was as follows:—In the year 1764, a Colonel Gibson, of Fort Pitt, came accidentally upon a party of Mingoes, encamped on Cross Creek, a tributary of the Ohio. Little Eagle, a distinguished chief, commanded the party, and upon discovering the whites, gave a fearful whoop and at the same time discharged his gun at the colonel. The ball passed through Gibson's coat without injuring him. With the quickness of a tiger he sprang upon his foe, and with one sweep of his sword, severed the head of Little Eagle from his body. Two other Indians were killed by the whites, but the others escaped and reported that the white captain had cut off the head of their chief with his *long knife*. This was the origin of the celebrated and fearfully significant term *long knives*. It was applied throughout the war to Virginians, and even to this day has not been forgotten by some of the Western tribes.—**LONG MOSS** (*Tillandsia usneoides*).—A vegetable parasite, which is erroneously called a moss; it grows like the mistletoe on certain trees, but derives no sustenance from them. It specially favors the cypress and the acacia.—**LONG SAUCE.**—The vernacular of the New England States has preserved the old English usage in speaking of vegetables as "sauce." *Long sauce* is the name applied to beets, parsnips, carrots, and such shaped vegetables; whilst roots, like turnips, onions, etc., are called **SHORT SAUCE** (*q.v.*).—**LONG SHANKS.**—One of the popular names of the black-necked stilt, otherwise called the **LAWYER** (*q.v.*).—**LONG SUGAR.**—A North Carolinian term for molasses; in New England, the

same product was formerly named **LONG SWEETENING.**—**LONG TOM.**—An apparatus used by miners in the washing of gold.

**LONG ON.**—A colloquialism frequently met with in New England, and meaning "occasioned by." This is a survival of Old English usage, as it has been traced back to Middleton.

**LOOED.**—To BE LOOED, *i.e.*, to be defeated or "worsted" in an undertaking, a simile derived from the card table. The same meaning applies to **EUCHRE** (*q.v.*).

**LOOK-OUT.**—An attendant who, at the gaming-table, is supposed to see that matters are conducted fairly; that no mistakes are made; and that money won goes to the right person.

Inspector Steer arraigned thirty-three gamblers, whom he arrested at No. 208, West Thirtieth Street last evening, before Justice Welde, at Jefferson Market Police Court this morning. The look-outs were held in 700 dols. bail each for examination to-morrow. The other prisoners were discharged. —*New York Evening Post*, February 24, 1888.

**LOON** (*Colymbus torquatus*).—Also called the **BLACK SWIMMER** and the **NORTHERN DIVER.**—**AS STRAIGHT AS A LOON'S LEG** is a frequently heard figure of speech, derived from the bird in question.

**LOOSENESS.**—Without restraint; with perfect freedom. To GO IT WITH A LOOSENESS, *i.e.*, without check, is often heard. In English slang we get "on the loose," which, however, is more restricted in meaning.

**LOPE.**—To leap, or to run. Authorities differ concerning the derivation of *lope*, and but little pre-eminence seems possible to any of the conflicting theories, which are (1) that

it is a contraction of "gallop"; (2) that the Dutch *loopen*, to run or leap, is responsible for the modern form; and (3) that it is the same as *lope*, to run away, an English provincialism.

We made quick work of saddling, and the second each man was ready, away he *LOPED* through the dusk, splashing and slipping in the pools of water that studded the muddy plain.—*Roosevelt's Ranch Life in the Far West*.

**LOST CAUSE.**—With mournful pathos the Southerner refers to the cause for which he fought and was defeated as the *lost cause*. The principle involved was not only the existence of slavery within the borders of the Union, but also the far more widely-reaching doctrine of States' Rights.

In May, 1886, in Atlanta, Henry W. Grady delivered what Mr. Ingalls characterizes as a eulogy, coming near to the frontier of sacrilege and the line of blasphemy, on Jefferson Davis, the uncrowned king of the *LOST CAUSE*.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, March 7, 1888.

**LOT.**—Applied to land, *lot* is equivalent to the English plot; the term is applied to any piece, portion, or division of land; thus city-lots, town-lots, cemetery-lots, water-lots, house-lots, etc., etc. The term seems to have been used from the earliest times, and Webster suggests that its origin may be sought in a practice of casting *lots* for the choicer portions—hence the colloquialism, to GO ACROSS LOTS.—*See ACROSS LOTS*.

**LOUISIANA TIGERS.**—A corps of Confederate sharpshooters was so called in the late Civil War.

**LOWBELIA, HIGHBELIA.**—The first-named is a corruption of *Lobelia inflata*; and a similar plant of vigorous trailing growth was, by a species of correspondence, termed *highbelia*

by the quack medicine vendors who use these plants in their decoctions.

**LOW BLACKBERRY.**—The *DEWBERRY*.

**LOW-DOWNER.**—In North Carolina, a wrecker.

**LOWER HOUSE.**—The House of Representatives as distinguished from the Senate.

**LOW GROUND.**—A Virginian term for *BOTTOM LANDS* (*q.v.*)

**LUCIVEE** (*Lynx canadensis*).—*Lucivee* is a corruption of the French *loup cervier*.

**LUGS.**—(1) Ground leaves of tobacco when prepared for market.—(2) *Airs; style.* "To put on lugs."

Pretty carpets and furniture came from Denver, and the boys began to think that the parson was putting on *LUGS*. But they excused a good deal in the parson, and really vied with one another in paying homage in their rough way to the parson's ward.—*Portland Transcript*, March 14, 1888.

**LUMBER.**—Sawn timber. The *lumber* industry, as may be imagined, is a very important one, and has given rise to many terms, most of which are self-explanatory; such are *LUMBERER* and *LUMBERMAN*, those who procure and bring down timber from the backwoods to the centres of population; *LUMBER-MERCHANT*, *LUMBERING*, *LUMBER-YARD*.

'Illinois may be the Prairie State, but we go there for walnut logs and *LUMBER*,' said a representative of M. J. Osgood, the *LUMBERMAN*, in discussing the log situation with a Journal reporter.—*Indianapolis Journal*, 1888.

—**LUMBER STATE.**—Maine is thus known on account of its extensive pine forests; for which

reason it is also known as the **PINE TREE STATE**.—**LUMBER WAGON**.—A farmer's produce cart.

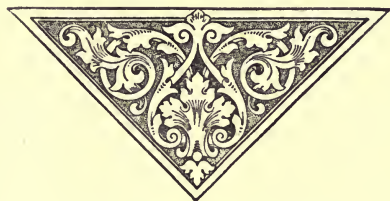
**LUMMOX**.—This English provincialism is colloquial in America for a heavy, stupid fellow; so also is **LUNK-HEAD**, with the same meaning.

**LYCEUM**.—Where Academy, Association, or Society would be used in England *Lyceum* is frequently employed in America. The word may signify either the building in which the society meets or the society itself.

**LYNCH, TO. LYNCHER. LYNCH LAW**.—To lynch is defined as to inflict

punishment without the form of law; a *lyncher* is one who performs such punishment; and *lynch law* is the practice of punishing men for crime by private unauthorized persons without legal trial; mob law. Though, of course, *lynch law* might lend itself to wrong-doing, it yet, in lawless, wild communities, furnishes a certain kind of rough-and-ready justice. The origin of the term is wrapped in mystery; many explanations have been put forward, none, however, are conclusive.

**LYNCH LAW** is an outbreak of the reformatory spirit among people of low or recent civilization. Like other movements for reform, it is often carried by its own momentum into unforeseen excesses.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.







**M.A.M.**—A familiar New England corruption of "Madam," and which, following the pronunciation peculiar to that part of the Union, commonly appears both in speaking and writing as *Marm*. It is (1) A contraction for *MADAM* (*q.v.*), and (2) An alternative for "mother." In some parts of the country it was once customary to speak of one's parents as "Sir" and *Marm*.—**MARM SCHOOL**.—Formerly, what in England and also in Connecticut, was known as a "dame school." Since, however, women have very properly, in the public school system of America, assumed so large a share of the duties connected with the education of the young, the title of *Marm School* has been perpetuated in cases where the idea of inefficiency, usually connected in popular opinion with dame schools, no longer applies. The colloquial designation of the teachers is *SCHOOL-MARM*.

**MAB** (Cant).—A harlot.

**MACHINE**.—(1) A fire-engine. In New York and other large centres this term is especially affected by the *B'HOYS* (*q.v.*), who make themselves conspicuous at fires, and who, like their English congeners, revel in the excitement caused thereby.—(2) A synonym for any undertaking or enterprise; thus a man fretting

at interference will ask whether he or the person meddling is running this or that *machine*. In this connection Mr. Lincoln's reply to a busybody, who offered a liberal amount of advice and admonition about his administration, will occur to mind. "Now look here! If I have to run this *machine* I shall run it my own way, and be accountable to God, my conscience, and the people, but not to you!"—(3) A railway official's term for a locomotive.—A **MACHINE POLITICIAN** is one who yields implicit obedience to the lead of his party. In this sense the phrase has been generally colloquial for upwards of half a century, but a special significance attached to it in connection with the Republican party when owning allegiance to Mr. Conkling, a leader who chafed under any indication of independent voting.

**MACKINAW BLANKET**.—See **BLANKET**.

**MADAM**.—(1)—In many parts of the Union, especially in Boston and the South, a mother-in-law is designated as "*Madam* so-and-so" to distinguish her from a daughter-in-law of the same surname. The latter then takes the title of "Mrs." Thus, in the case of two Mrs. Jones, instead of speaking of them as Mrs. Jones, and Mrs. Jones, senior, or even old Mrs. Jones, the latter is called *Madam Jones*, and the former Mrs. Jones.—(2) Among negroes a

common name, in slavery days, for a master's wife; the term is still in use, though slightly changed in meaning since the abolition of slavery.—(3) In parts of the New England States *Madam* is used instead of "mother," in which case the term is very respectful.

**MAD DOG** (*Scutellaria lateriflora*).—This weed was once thought to be a specific cure for hydrophobia. It is also known as *SKULLCAP*, from the shape of its flowers.

**MADSTONE**.—A round stone of dark color, to which is attached a superstition that, if applied to the part bitten, it is a specific cure for hydrophobia. This belief obtains mainly in the South.

Dr. Walker, who is the owner of two *MAD-STONES*, is now at Walker. He says that one was taken from the stomach of an elk, and the other from a white deer.—*Nevada Press*, 1888.

A genuine case of hydrophobia has developed in the village of Mastersville, a few miles south of this city. On February 9 a dog of Dr. McAuley bit Mr. Martin Robinson, his nephew, and Miss McAuley, his daughter. A *MADSTONE*, which was kept in the vicinity, and which had a legendary indorsement, was applied, and adhered so well that no fear of any subsequent result was held.—*St. Louis Daily Globe Democrat*, March 30, 1888.

**MAGG** (Cant).—This term, which in England is now applied to a halfpenny (formerly megs were guineas), is in the States the name of a half-cent.

**MAGUEY** (*Agave americana*).—A species of aloe, and otherwise called *CENTURY PLANT*. These abound in the South-western States, and, according to species, furnish sisal, hemp, bagging, and in one or two cases an intoxicating drink called *RULQUE* (*q.v.*)

**MAHALA**.—A term in use in California for an Indian squaw, and thought to be a corruption of the Spanish *muger* (pronounced *mu-her*), a woman.

**MAHOGANY** (*Swietenia mahogany*).—The mahogany of commerce; no further reference is requisite here.—To *MAHOGANIZE*.—To paint wood in imitation of *mahogany*.

**MAHONIST**.—In 1878, a General Mahone of West Virginia, once an officer in the service of the Confederate States, seceded from the ranks of the Bourbon democrats. His followers were thereupon called *Mahonists*.

**MAIDENLAND**.—When the dower of a wife takes the form of land, the right to which reverts to her family at death, it receives the name of *maidenland*. A Virginian usage.

**MAIL, To**.—As a noun, *mail* is applied to postal matter generally, and is now quite common in England. Where, however, in England we post letters, it is common in America to speak of *mailing* them.—Hence variants like *MAIL-ABLE*, *MAIL-RIDER* (post-boy), and *MAIL-STAGE*. The *MAIL-CAR* on American railways is equivalent to the English Post Office travelling van.

*MAIL* comes here from all foreign countries and Europe also. It is distributed at once, and one is permitted to *MAIL* a letter at any time, day or night. In tall buildings now there is an arrangement by which one may shoot his letters into a runway or flume, and they will be carried into a United States *MAIL* box on the ground floor.—*American Humorist*, Aug. 11, 1888.

**MAINE LAW**.—An enactment, passed about the year 1844 in the State of Maine, which provided that no one, save an officially licensed agent, should engage in the sale of

intoxicating liquors. This was perhaps the first attempt made in America in the direction of regulating the drink traffic.—Hence **MAINE LAWITE**.—An advocate of the principle of the *Maine law*.

**MAIZE**.—The original name for Indian corn, which, like wheat in England, is a staple of American agriculture. This product, however, is more generally known as **CORN** (*q.v.*). *Maize* is of Carib origin, having come down from *mahiz* or *mahis*, through the Spanish and the French *maïs*.

**MAKE**.—**WE MAKE 'EM OURSELVES**.—A street catch-phrase, which quickly spread throughout the Union, and was quickly supplanted in public favor by other slang expressions. *We make 'em ourselves* implies readiness to follow another's lead; or capacity to perform what others have done.

**MAKING GOOD** (in Poker).—Depositing in the pool an amount equal to any bet previously made. This is done previous to raising or calling a player, and is sometimes called *seeing a bet*.—*The American Hoyle*.

**MALAHACK**.—To cut up hastily or awkwardly. This is an English provincialism, which, however, is colloquial in America.

**MAMMA OR MAMMEE APPLE** (*Mammea americana*).—A well-known West Indian fruit. — **MAMMEE SAPOTA** (*Lucuma mammosa*).—See **SAPOTE**.

**MAMMOXED**.—A doubtful word, current in the South and West. It seems to bear a meaning of serious personal injury, and may, perhaps, be compared with "flummuxed" in the sense of great mental perturbation.

**MAMMY**.—An affectionate name given by children to negro nurses, and old servants.. In the extreme South it is pronounced as if written *maumer*. In Old English usage the word was synonymous with grandmother, and the same signification also attaches to the gipsy *mami*.

**MAN**.—This word naturally enters into combination with many slang and other phrases.—**MAN-EATER**.—The *man-eater* of Pennsylvania and the Eastern States is nothing more formidable than the so-called salamander, or as they are popularly called in other localities water-dogs, spring-keepers, water-puppies, and ground-puppies.—**MAN OF THE EARTH** (*Convolvulus panduratus*).—This is also known as the Mechoacan and wild potato-vine. The root of this plant, which grows in sandy places, is used medicinally.—**MAN-FASHION**.—A long established Americanism signifying after the manner of men.—**ANOTHER MAN [or GOOD MAN] GONE WRONG**.—This street catch-phrase has had as wide a vogue in England as in America; indeed, slang nowadays is thoroughly cosmopolitan, and once started, generally makes a tour of the globe. At first *another good man gone wrong* was applied to cases where disgrace of any kind had fallen upon an individual; latterly, however, no more serious meaning is imputed than that of following a given lead.—**GOING OUT TO MEET A MAN**, is a New York phrase for "taking a drink." It arose in connection with the excuse given on leaving a place of entertainment during an *entr'acte* for the purpose of refreshment.—**THE MAN AT THE OTHER END OF THE AVENUE**.—This phrase originated with Thaddeus Stevens, and had reference to President Johnson. Another famous political expression



was.—THE MAN ON HORSEBACK—of Caleb Cushing.

**MANADA.**—This term, which, in California is specially applied to breeding mares, is elsewhere more generally used of a herd of cattle or drove of horses. It comes from the Spanish.

**MANANOSAY.**—The Indian name of the SOFT CLAM (*q.v.*).

**MANATEE.**—The sea-cow or lamantin.

**MANDERER** (Cant).—A cadger; a beggar.

**MANGO.**—A musk-melon, stuffed with various condiments and then pickled.—**MANGO HUMMING BIRD** (*Trochilus colubris*), also called the HUM-BIRD or HUMMER (*q.v.*).

**MANGOSTEEN.**—A variety of the East Indian mango, which flourishes in the West Indies.

**MANIFEST DESTINY.**—Like "the right divine of kings to govern wrong," the *manifest destiny* of a nation is too often a mere cloak for violence and oppression; or, as J. R. Lowell puts it, "a national recklessness as to right or wrong." The phrase *manifest destiny*, as specially applied to American politics, originated with Mr. Webster, who asserted that God intended America should be a Republic.

**MANIOC.**—The plant from which TAPIOCA (*q.v.*) is derived.

**MANITOU.**—An Algonkin word signifying spirit. It is applied by Indian tribes to spirits of all kinds, whether of the woods, of the wind, or any natural object, and these may be either good or bad.

**MANNERS.**—TO MAKE ONE'S MANNERS.—Children were formerly said to make their manners when bowing or curtsying to visitors or elders. This mode of speech is in reality a very old English usage. The motto of Winchester school, "manners makyth man," is of somewhat similar import, *manners* in both cases being synonymous with courtesy and good breeding.

**MANSARD ROOF.**—A roof with a double set of rafters, the upper sloping at a greater angle than the under. From the French architect, Mansard.

I've worked up a business here that would satisfy any man, don't care who he is. Five years ago lodged in an attic; live in a swell house now, with a MANSARD ROOF, and all the modern inconveniences.—*Life on the Mississippi* by Mark Twain.

One also hears the phrase "to put a *mansard roof* on him," or "to put a *mansard* over his eyes."

**MANTLE-PLACE.**—A Southern corruption for "mantelpiece" or mantel-board.

You have a very singular ornament for your MANTLE-PLACE.—W. G. Simms' *The Last Wager*.

**MAN-TRAP** (Cant).—A widow.

**MAPLE.**—A variety of tree which, though not peculiar to the American continent, is yet a distinct feature of it. Among the more prominent of the species may be mentioned the SUGAR-MAPLE.—**MAPLE-HONEY.**—A product of the sugar-maple tree, being the molasses-like residuum of the sap after boiling. This is also called MAPLE - MOLASSES. — **MAPLE-SUGAR.**—A sugar obtained from the SUGAR-MAPLE TREE. — **MAPLE-SYRUP.**—The same as maple-honey.

**MARABOU.**—A negro cross between a mulatto and a griffe, *i.e.*, in the proportion of five-eighths black blood and three-eighths white. Experts profess to be able to distinguish the various grades of color resulting from the admixture of the two races.—*See* MULATTO.

**MARBLE, OR MARVEL, TO.**—A Pennsylvanian term, signifying to depart, or move away with alacrity—the result of persuasive argument, moral or physical.

**MARBLE-HEAD TURKEY.**—A Massachusetts term for a cod-fish. Also called CAPE-COD TURKEY. There are many instances of fish being spoken of as meat, *e.g.*, the sturgeon is known in America as ALBANY BEEF; while in England herrings are nicknamed "digby chicks" when dried, or "Billingsgate pheasants" when fresh; and a Yarmouth bloater rejoices in the euphonious name of "two-eyed steak." Many other examples will occur to mind as colloquial on both sides of the Atlantic.

**MARK (Cant).**—To hit one in the *mark* is to deliver a blow in the pit of the stomach.

**MARKET TRUCK, also GARDEN TRUCK.**—Vegetables grown for market.—*See* TRUCK.

**MARM.**—*See* MA'AM.

**MAROON.**—It is extremely doubtful whether this term for a runaway negro can be classed as an Americanism. This remark also applies to MAROONER.—To GO MAROONING, however, *i.e.*, picnicing for several days at a stretch, genuinely finds a place in these pages. *Marooning* is peculiar to

the Southern States, and is very similar to what is known in England as camping out. This sense is obviously an indirect derivative of the verb "to maroon."

**MARRIAGE INTENTION.**—A betrothal. It is customary in America to publicly announce betrothals as well as births, deaths, and marriages.

#### MARRIAGE INTENTIONS.

Daniel G. Denehy, 22, Honora V. Twomey, 20; James Phelan, 37, Hannah F. Landers, 34; Walter H. Osborne, 26, Mary A. Kelley, 26; Daniel Coleman, 30, Catherine M. Thomas, 30; Thomas Dee, 25, Mary Doyle, 23; John C. McDougall, 36, Annie McDonald, 35.—*Boston Daily Globe*, 1888.

**MARRIAGE LICENSE.**—Marriage being a civil contract in America, details of all licenses issued are periodically advertised in the daily papers.

#### MARRIAGE LICENSES.

The following is the list of MARRIAGE LICENSES issued up to two p.m. to-day, with the name, residence (when outside the city), and age of the licensees:—

124,198—Harry L. Wells, Hortense Dalton	22—20
124,199—John A. Peterson, Frida Oliv	23—22
124,200—Wilhelm Tuck, Johanna Behrens	22—18
etc., etc., etc.	
— <i>Chicago Mail</i> , 1888.	

*Marriage licenses*, however, are not required in Arizona, Dakota, Idaho, Michigan, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, South Carolina, Utah and Wisconsin.

**MARRIED.**—TO BE MARRIED.—Said of two men when handcuffed together.

**MARSH HEN** (*Rallus crepitans* and *virginianus*).—This popular name is borne both by the Virginia-rail and also by the Clapper-rail. A variant is MUD HEN.

**MARVEL, TO.**—To move away expeditiously.—See TO MARBLE.

**MARYLAND END.**—A curious name given to the hock end of a ham, the thick part being called the VIRGINIA END. These colloquialisms are current in both the States concerned, and are thought by some to allude to a supposed rough resemblance between the contour line of these States and a ham; ordinary people, however, will scarcely be able thus to impose upon their imagination.

**MARY WALKERS.**—Trousers; derived from Dr. Mary Walker adopting as part of her dress a modified form of this article of male attire.

**MASH, TO.**—English slang is indebted to America (California to be exact) for *mash*, *MASHER*, and other variants. It is difficult to say whether the word, or the idea enshrined in it, is the more contemptible and odious. Primarily, *to mash* might have been translated to ogle in a mistaken belief that one's charms are irresistible; or "to be spoons on" where the object of such attention is an unwilling victim. Since, however, the word has become so generally colloquial, its meaning has been considerably softened, and now signifies merely to make oneself agreeable.—**MASHER.**—This word, like *MASH*, has been purified in meaning, since its advent on this side of the water; but even now little enough can be said in its favor. A *masher* may be either a noxious animal of the genus *Catulus* who rudely ogles women on public thoroughfares; or he may be a comparatively harmless, if vacuous biped in trousers. The last named variety wears a collar and eyeglass, and his mission in life is—well, prob-

ably not even he himself could name it. The *masher* or dude (a later name) is the successor of the fops, swells, beaux, bloods, and bucks of former times.—**MASH TEA.**—A herbal decoction of the North-west, very similar to LABRADOR TEA (*q.v.*).—**MASH TRAP.**—As the name indicates, a trap that kills by crushing the victim entangled in it.

**MASON AND DIXON'S LINE.**—The boundary line between Pennsylvania on the south and the adjoining states of Maryland and West Virginia. This boundary, which follows the 40th parallel of N. latitude, was surveyed in 1763-6 by two Englishmen of the names of Mason and Dixon, in order to settle a dispute between the states in question. *Mason and Dixon's Line* was originally marked by mile-stones; on the Pennsylvania side these land marks were inscribed with the armorial bearings of Penn., and on the other with those of Lord Baltimore. The phrase, however, derives its chief importance from the fact, that for a long period it was looked upon as representing roughly the dividing line between the Free and Slave States. Even as far back as 1820, when Congress was the scene of fierce debate as to the exclusion of slavery from Missouri, the expression was popularized through its frequent use by John Randolph, and during the recent rebellion it again figured in newspapers and dispatches, "Hang your clothes to dry on *Mason and Dixon's Line*," was one of the numerous sayings current in the early days of the anti-slavery agitation.

Living in the Middle States, I have had occasion to observe how vigorously a man on either side of MASON AND DIXON'S LINE



resents being mistaken for a man living on the other side.—*American Humorist*, 1888.

**MASONESS.**—Androgynous masonry, finding little acceptance in England, has met with scarcely more favor in America. There are, however, a number of spurious degrees to which women have been admitted, and to describe these the word *masoness* has been invented.

**MASSA.**—A negro term for master, and a common mode of address to white men on all occasions.

**MASS MEETING.**—This term, for a large meeting of citizens for any purpose whatsoever, was first used in the electoral contest of 1840—the HARD CIDER CAMPAIGN as it was called, when General Harrison and Mr. Tyler were candidates for the Presidency. *Mass Meeting* has now passed into general use not only in England and America, but also in France and Germany.

**MATCH, TO.**—To light a fire, candle, etc., by the application of a *match*. "*Match that fire,*" i.e., light it.

**MATERIALIZER, TO, MATERIALIZATION.**—

(1) To become visible; an appearance. Among spiritualists, the act by which a spirit is supposed to make itself visible to mortal sight, is called *materIALIZATION*. Little is known concerning the *modus operandi*; all that is certain is, that under certain conditions "forms" independent of any person visibly present are evolved, sometimes in full view, through the instrumentality of certain individuals called psychics. Authorities in psychical research admit that the terms to *materIALIZE* and *materIALIZATION* are unsatisfactory and misleading, and for the latter, pending further knowledge, "form manifestation" has

been suggested.—(2) So wonderful were the records of phenomena of the kind just mentioned, that a sceptical, unbelieving generation, jumped to a conclusion that the whole thing was fraudulent. The "wise and learned," as usual, pitted their want of knowledge of a mysterious and abstruse subject against the matter-of-fact statements of hundreds of witnesses who, in many cases, had made the question a scientific life-study. Thus ridiculed, to *materIALIZE* became associated in the public mind with putting in an appearance of any kind, and a person failing to keep an appointment, or so on, would be said not to have *materIALIZED*. *MaterIALIZE* is perhaps the most popularly colloquial of recent Americanisms—an indirect tribute, may-be, to the extent to which the teachings of spiritualism have unconsciously permeated the popular mind. The following extracts will illustrate the various shades of meaning which attach to the popular use of the word.

The branch line to connect Pensacola with the main stem of the Birmingham and Navy Cove Railway at, or near, Mobile, is rapidly *MATERIALIZING*.—*The Pensacola Commercial*, 1888.

One day last week I spent three-quarters of an hour on an East River pier waiting for an excursion boat to *MATERIALIZER*.—*Texas Siftings*, September 8, 1888.

An invitation to President Cleveland was sent to Fire Island this afternoon, and the ladies were in a flutter of excitement, but up to a late hour he had not *MATERIALIZED*. The probability is that Mr. Cleveland has not got his dress suit on board the yacht, and would not like to wear his fishing clothes on this occasion.—*New York Herald*, July 29, 1888.

But Barbara was averse to building any castles in the air which she had small chance of being able to *MATERIALIZER*.—*Century Magazine*, 1888.

**MATTER.**—AND THAT'S WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH HANNAH.—A slang catch phrase, generally tailed on to a statement or remark without the

slightest sense of congruity. It means nothing in particular; and as much may be said of it here.

**MAUL, To.**—Bartlett gives this as, to prepare; to make; current in the Southern States. If this be so it is probably derived from the *maul*, a woodcutter's tool or mallet for preparing wood. — **MAUL AND WEDGES.** — These tools of the woodman are used in popular speech very much as their equivalent "bag and baggage" is employed in England.

He went across lots, MAUL AND WEDGES, and we never seen nor hearn of him sence.—*Western Scenes.*

**MAULD (Cant).**—A man is said to be *mauld* when very drunk; probably in more senses than one.

**MAUMER.**—See MAMMY.

**MAUVAISES TERRES.**—The name given by the early French settlers to the BAD LANDS (*q.v.*).

**MAVERICK.**—Unbranded cattle are called *mavericks*. The derivation of the term is given under BRAND (*q.v.*).

**MAWKS (Cant).**—A slatternly woman.

**MAX, To.**—*Max* is an abbreviation of "maximum"; hence at the United States Military Academy at West Point, to *max* signifies to do well.

**MAYBE** is invariably used for "perhaps."

**MAY BIRD.**—One of the numerous names for the BOBOLINK (*q.v.*).

**MAY BLOB.**—In New England the cow-slip is so called.

**MAY POP.**—A Southern name for the passion flower.

**MAZZARD (Cant).**—The face.

**M. C.**—An abbreviation for Member of Congress.

**MC FLIMSY.**—MISS FLORA MCFLIMSY, OF MADISON SQUARE.—A facetious nickname given to the reigning American belle. It was taken from a very popular poem entitled "Nothing to Wear." Madison Square is in the fashionable quarter of New York.

MISS FLORA MCFLIMSY, OF MADISON SQUARE, must have had a hard time getting along in swell society with so few clothes, but they say she always managed to keep well supplied with Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup. —*Troy Daily Times*, February 20, 1888.

**MEADOW.**—A distinction is made between the coarse grass of swampy lands and the finer sorts which grow elsewhere. The former is called MEADOW-HAY, whilst the latter is distinguished as ENGLISH-HAY. — **MEADOW BIRD.** — The BOBOLINK (*q.v.*).

**MEAN.**—(1) This is often used as the singular of "means"—"the *mean* by which he undertook to circumvent the enemy was unique of its kind."—(2) As an adjective *mean* is commonly used where an Englishman would employ "poor" with the meaning of little value, or worthless.

There can be no greater provocation than is given by a MEAN horse or a refractory steer.—*Century Magazine*, October, 1888.

—Hence MEAN CROWD.—An opprobrious term for people of whom not much is thought, whether morally or physically. The expression is sometimes varied by LOW MOB or LOW CROWD; and it is applied to a single individual

as well as to gatherings of people.

—MEAN ENOUGH TO STEAL ACORNS FROM A BLIND HOG.—A Yankee's idea of consummate meanness. Like most phrases of the kind, the flavor is rough and racy.—MEAN WHITES OR POOR WHITES OR WHITE TRASH.—Under the slavery *régime* of the Southern States, these were contemptuous terms applied by the negroes to the indigent white population of the South, *i.e.*, those who lacked alike landed property and slaves to work for them, who eschewed labor of all kinds, were intemperate and improvident, and are to-day more or less a stumbling block in the arduous task of Reconstruction, or the building up again of the body politic, under the changed conditions brought about by the collapse of the Southern or pro-slavery cause. A similar state of affairs exists to a certain extent in the West Indies, and, indeed, in any tropical climate where the environment of life precludes manual labor for those of European descent. Whites have no *locus standi* side by side with other races, unless possessed of property or mental aptitude, which is often synonymous with wealth, because by it wealth is secured.

**MEASURE.**—TO TAKE ONE'S MEASURE.—To reckon one up; to form an estimate of one's character, ability, or the length of one's purse, *i.e.*, one's social position. A variant is TO SIZE ONE UP.

**MEAT** (pronounced *mate*).—A general term for animal food of all kinds. For instance, BAR-MEAT, or GRIZZLY-MEAT as it is more often called, BUFFALO-MEAT, DEER-MEAT, and BEEF-MEAT, are frequently heard; while even SHEEP-MEAT for mutton is not uncommon.—MEAT-BIS-

CUTTS.—These, as the name implies, are compounds of animal food (generally beef) and flour baked in the form of a biscuit.—MEAT-CHAMBER.—A refrigerating room on board ocean-going steamers, used to convey carcasses from port to port.—TO CHEW ONE'S OWN MEAT, *i.e.*, to do a thing oneself.

—TO HUNT FOR MEAT.—A hunter's phrase, used when he sets forth to replenish his larder.—

TO MAKE MEAT, is the term by which the frontiersman denotes the process of drying thin slices of animal flesh for future use.

—MEAT IN THE POT.—A Texan term for a revolver. The phrase is not altogether inappropriate, because on the plains of the Great Lone Star State, a man's rifle or revolver is often the only means by which he can provide and literally put *meat in the pot*. Texas, perhaps, more than any other State in the Union, stands pre-eminent and unique in the production of slang terms. These are often startling enough in originality and sententiousness; nor is the moral ingenuity revealed by the vernacular less striking, as, *e.g.*, in such phrases as "revolvers make all men equal," and "if a man can't curse his friends whom can he curse?"

**MECATE.**—Mexican for a rope, made either of hair or the fibre of the agave or MAGUEY.

**MECHOACAN.**—THE WILD POTATO VINE (*g.v.*). *Mechoacan* is the Indian name for this plant.

**MEDICINE.**—GOOD MEDICINE; BAD MEDICINE.—The word *medicine* is of universal application among the Indians. Everything supposed lucky, or healthful, or indicative in any way of the presence or



pleasure of the good God, is "good medicine." Everything the reverse is "bad medicine."

Some special virtue or value seems to be attached to hair-covered skin. The Indian has no hair on his face or person, and consequently scalps only the heads of other Indians. The full-bearded white man offers peculiar attractions to the scalper. Every portion of skin to which hair is attached, even to the small bit under the arms, is scalped off. I once saw in an Indian camp a scalp consisting of almost the entire skin of the head, face, breast, and belly to the crutch, in one piece. It had been carefully cured, and peculiar value was set upon it as *BIG MEDICINE*.—*Dodge's Plains of the Great West*, p. 399.

**MEDIUM.**—A person who, by organization, is capable of acting as an intermediary or connecting link between the spiritual forces of nature and the world of matter. This word, like much of the terminology of spiritualism, is confessedly obscure, and borders upon jargon. A much better term is "psychic."

**MEDLAR** (Cant).—One whose personal aroma suggests the reflection that cleanliness comes neither before nor after Godliness.

**MEECHING OR MICHING.**—This word, obsolete in England, still survives in New York and New England for skulking or mean, in which sense it was used by Shakspeare, "To meech" was employed by Beaumont and Fletcher in the sense of to pilfer; and also to lay in wait for; to lurk.

But I ain't of the MEECHIN' kind, that sets and thinks for weeks,  
The bottoms out o' th' Universe, 'cos their own gillpot leaks.

—*J. R. Lowell.*

**MEET.**—TO MEET UP WITH.—A Georgian synonym for to overtake.  
—TO MEET WITH A CHANGE.—To be struck under conviction.  
—*See CONVICTION.*

**MEETING. MEETING-HOUSE.**—An assembly, and also the building in which it meets for divine worship. The Puritans, who largely impressed the stamp of their influence on matters connected with religion in America, held that a church was a body of Christians, and not a building—hence they refused the name of church to the latter, calling it instead a *meeting-house*.

Wut's the use o' MEETIN'-goin'  
Every Sabbath, wet or dry,  
Ef it's right to go amowin'  
Feller-men like oats an rye?

—*Biglow Papers.*

The young people were all gibberin' and talkin' and laughin', as if they had been to a corn-shuckin' more'n to a MEETIN'-HOUSE.—*Major Jones.*

In the OLD COLONY (*q.v.*), *meeting house* is frequently contracted into MEETIN'-US.—MEETIN' SEED.—Carraway seed; that condiment being used as a supposed specific against drowsiness during church service—a startling comment upon both minister and congregation.

**MELON FRUIT** (*Carica papaya*).—The papaw; a West Indian fruit which is also called the TREE MELON.

**MELT, To** (Cant).—To spend money  
—an axiom *litteratim et verbatim*.

**MEM. CHECK OR MEMORANDUM CHECK.**  
—When a draft bears upon its face either of these terms it is understood that it shall not be presented for payment before the date marked upon it, although the courts of the United States have decided that the holders of these documents are legally entitled to negotiate such a draft for immediate payment. In England the equivalent is a "post-dated cheque," the operation being called "dating forward."

**MEMORIAL DAY.**—See DECORATION DAY.

**MENHADEN** (*Alosa menhaden*).—The BONY FISH (*q.v.*). This fish has many other *aliases*.

**MEN OF THE BLUE and THE GRAY.**—The soldiers of the Federal and Confederate armies respectively.—See BLUE BELLIES.

If designing Democratic politicians had kept their hands off, and let the MEN OF THE BLUE and THE GRAY settle things, there would not be to-day one-half the bad blood that exists.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*, 1888.

**MERCHANDISE, To.**—To engage in trade; to transact business. It matters little whether the trade is carried on in a Broadway store, or whether the goods for sale are contained in a pedlar's pack; both the storekeeper and the pedlar devote themselves to *merchandising*.

**MERCHANT.**—Any trader from a whole-sale dealer to a petty shopkeeper or hawkker. Everyone who engages in trade in America is a *merchant*.

**MERKIN** (Cant).—This term, which in English cant possesses an extremely esoteric meaning, is in America applied to hair-dye. There is, however, a slight connection between the two usages, which the curious will, no doubt, discover for themselves.

**MERRY CAIN.**—TO RAISE MERRY CAIN.—A sarcastic variant of TO RAISE CAIN (*see* CAIN); to anger; to enrage.

But in our spirit of imitation do we not go too far when we talk of uniforming the shop girls in the big dry-goods store? The suggestion of such an innovation has RAISED MERRY CAIN in the bosoms of the indignant saleswomen of Macy's, Stern's, Altman's, and other large bazaars of this city.—*Long Branch News*, April 7, 1888.

**MESA.**—A table-land. Spanish in descent, and in use in the Mexican-Spanish States. The diminutive is MESILLA.

**MESQUIT or MUSKEET** (*Algarobia glandulosa*).—A tree of the locust family which abounds in the South and South-west. The pods are much liked by cattle and horses; and Indians use the beans as an article of food.—MESQUIT GRASS (*Stipa spata*).—A nutritious grass found on the Western plains. Also called LEWIS GRASS. *Masket* is the Indian word for grass. Other varieties are BARBED MESQUIT and HOG WALLOW MESQUIT.

**MESSAGE.**—An official communication from the President to Congress; equivalent to the Queen's Speech of English politics.

**MESTEE, METIS or METIF.**—The progeny of quadroon and white parents, the proportion being one-eighth black.—See MULATTO.

**METATE** (from Mexican *metal*).—A hollow oblong stone, used for grinding purposes.

**METHEGLIN.**—A spiritous beverage.

The friends of the new-married couple did nothing for a whole month but smoke and drink METHEGLIN during the bender they called the honeymoon.—*Sam Slick's Human Nature*, p. 276.

**METHY** (*Lota maculosa*).—The burbot. This fish is called LA ROCHE by the Canadians.

**METIS.**—See MULATTO.

**MEXICAN MYSTERIES** (Masonic).—The Mexicans (Aztecs) had religious orders and secret ceremonies like other nations. Dedicating them-

selves to the worship of some special deity, such as Quetzalcoatl (the Mexican Saviour), they secluded themselves in monasteries, and practised secret rites. This order was called Tlamacazajotl, and the members Tlamacazque. Another order was called Telpochtliztli, or "the youths," being composed of youths dedicated to Tezcatlipoca. There was an order for men over sixty taking vows of chastity, devoted to the Goddess Centcotl. They were men of extreme learning, and anything uttered by them was deemed oracular. The number was limited, and they passed their time making historical paintings for the instruction of the people. The North American Indians had similar societies. Among the Algonkins there were three degrees:—1. Wau-beno; 2. Meda; and 3. Jossakeed. Humboldt speaks of the Order of the Botuto, or Holy Trumpet, among the Orinoco Indians. The Collahuayas, of Peru, also practised secret ceremonies.

**MICKY.**—One of the innumerable sobriquets current in the States for a rowdy; a rough.

Here once, when the MICKS got to throwing stones through the Methodist's Sunday School windows, Buck Fanshaw, all of his own notion, shut up his saloon and took a couple of six-shooters, and mounted guard over the Sunday School.—*Mark Twain's The Innocents at Home*, p. 22.

**MIDDLE STATES.**—New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Columbia District.

**MIDDLING INTEREST.**—The middle classes in the social scale of society.

**MIDLINGS.**—A technical term in the pork-packing trade for that portion of the animal between the hams and shoulders.

**MIDGET.**—The sand-fly is so-called in Canada and the North-west.

**MID-WESTERN STATES.**—W. Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, Kansas, and Arkansas.

**MILEAGE.**—A Government allowance to Members of Congress and others. While in Congress members receive, besides their regular salary, *mileage*, a somewhat extravagant compensation for their travelling expenses from home to Washington and back again. **CONSTRUCTIVE MILEAGE** is paid when the members are only supposed to have gone home, and to have returned to the seat of Government without having actually been absent. This is the case, for instance, when one Congress, as it is called, expires on the 3rd of March, and the next Congress begins its session on the 4th of that month; all the members who hold over, *i.e.*, are re-elected for a new Congress, are paid their full *mileage* as if they had gone to their home and then returned to Washington. The matter is trifling as far as the majority is concerned, but in the cases of members from distant States, as from the Pacific coast or New Mexico, the sum assumes gigantic proportions. One member, who only sat four days in Congress, was once allowed 14,000 dollars back pay on this account. Many honorable men have refused to take advantage of the allowance, regarding it as an imposition upon the public.—**MILEAGE TICKETS.**—Among the many needful reforms in railway traffic, introduced by Americans, perhaps the most conspicuous is that which provides for payment according to the distance travelled. These tickets can be bought to cover as much as 2,000 miles at a time, the companies giving facilities for transfer from



one line of railway to another. If, from any cause, the holder of such a ticket finds himself unable to avail himself to the full extent of his purchase, he is at liberty to dispose of the unused portion, or the companies will refund a proportional amount of the sum paid. For example, if a 2,000 mile ticket has been purchased, and less than 1,000 miles have been used, it is customary to charge three cents per mile for the portion used, and to refund the difference between the amount so charged, and the original price of the ticket to the original purchaser; or the unused portion may be applied, mile for mile, in part payment of a new *mileage ticket*. When 1,000 miles and upwards have been used, the charge is at the rate of 2½ cents per mile. It may also be remembered that ordinary return tickets are available till used, another concession which marks a difference between the American and English usage. These privileges have given rise to a new "industry" in *TICKET-SCALPING*, a suggestive name for speculation in unused railway tickets.

**MILITARY LANDS.**—Government lands set apart for use as rewards to soldiers or other military servants.

**MILK RANCH.**—A dairy farm. Looseness of speech, and, perhaps, an idea that *milk ranch* sounds better than the proper term, is responsible for this perversion of the original word. Even a two-acre lot has been called a *RANCH* (*q.v.*).

**MILK SICKNESS.**—A disease peculiar to the saline districts of the West, and thought to arise from the detrimental effects of the soil and water of these regions. It attacks both men and cattle, is spasmodic in action, and rapidly fatal in result.

**MILL.**—An American coin, which, however, has no real existence, of the value of one thousandth-part of a dollar.—To *MILL*.—A weaver's term. When cloth cockles it is said to *mill*.—**MILL PRIVILEGE.**—Webster defines this as a waterfall sufficient, when a dam is raised, to furnish power to work a mill.

**MILLER.**—A large white moth infesting tobacco plantations. It is exceedingly prolific, and sometimes deposits as many as a hundred eggs in a single night. So destructive is the tobacco worm, as the progeny of this insect is called, that planters frequently offer a reward of five cents for every *mill* captured; and on bright moonlight nights, when they are most numerous, the young darkies move stealthily about the fields on a still hunt for scalps.

**MILLER BOY OF THE SLASHES.**—A nickname of Henry Clay, who, in his youth, tended a mill in a region known as "the Slashes," near his birth-place.

**MILLERISM.**—Dr. William Miller, or, familiarly, Father Miller, the founder of this sect, was the American counterpart of Dr. Cumming in England. At one time the doings of the *MILLERITES* excited a good deal of public attention. Their chief tenet was a belief in the physical second advent of Jesus Christ. This, Miller predicted would take place on the 23rd of October, 1844, whereupon numbers of his followers settled their earthly accounts, bade farewell to their friends, assumed their white ascension-robcs, and prepared for the sounding of the last trumpet. The highways and byways were thronged with anxious crowds of men and women, while

the trees in the orchards and the roofs of houses were filled with the more impatient MILLERITES, who thus hoped to be nearer to their new home in heaven.

'Do you remember old Jabe Green's wife up to Wiggletown?' said the widow Bedott. 'She was always carried away with every new thing. Two or three years ago, when MILLERISM was makin' such a noise, she was clear killed up with it. Again, she was wide awake against Sabbath-breakin'—then 'twas moral reform.'—*Widow Bedott Papers*, p. 123.

**MILLING.**—A ranch term explained by quotation.

The cattle may begin to run, and then get MILLING—that is, all crowd together into a mass like a ball, wherein they move round and round, trying to keep their heads towards the centre, and refusing to leave it.—*Roosevelt's Ranch Life in the Far West*.

**MILLION OR MILYUN.**—Corruptions for "melon," very common in the South, where almost every black has his water-melon patch.

Yu mer talk 'bout yo' spar-rib, an' yo' back-bone an' yo' ham,  
An' yo' coon, an' yo' 'possum, an' yo' fattes' yaller yam,  
But de ve'y bes' an' sweetes' meat wa'tev' cross yo' mouf,  
Am de WAT'MILYUN, growin' en de patch down Souf.  
O, de WAT'MILYUN time! O, de WAT'MILYUN fine!  
Nuffin run ter sweetness lak' de WAT'MILYUN vine.  
—*Detroit Free Press*, Aug. 1888.

**MILLISH.**—A Southern corruption of "militia."

**MINISTER.**—A species of cat-fish, from its dark and sombre colour.—*See CAT*.

**MINK OR MINX** (*Putorius vison*).—A kind of water weasel, the fur of which is much esteemed.

**MINT DROPS OR BENTON'S MINT DROPS.**—Gold coins. A Missouri Con-

gressman named Benton, one of the foremost advocates of a gold currency, chanced on one occasion to let fall the expression *mint drops*, which at once became popular, and for many years gold coins were thus nicknamed.

**MINT JULEP.**—A concoction of brandy, sugar, and pounded ice, flavored with mint.

**MINT STICK.**—A peppermint sweetmeat.

**MISCEGENATION.**—This barbarous word was introduced in the South shortly after the Civil War to signify the mingling of the black and white races, and there were not wanting those who advocated the expediency of furthering such admixture by every means, lawful and unlawful. It was thought that the negro in America would be absorbed by the white race, and history was cited as furnishing precedents for such a result. This expectation has been altogether falsified; for, not only has *miscegenation* steadily decreased since the war, but the color line is more sharply drawn in society, church, and politics, between the black and his lighter-color-race brother, or miscegene, than it is between black and white. Indeed, this has gone so far, that it is the deepest disgrace of the race, and marks a jealousy that keeps them divided, and therefore resists their advancement. The only absorbing that these facts prove is, that the darker miscegenes will be reabsorbed into the dark race, while the lighter will fade away into dark whites, or be lost altogether.—Hence, based upon the same idea, such derivatives as MISCEGENE and MISCEGENATIONIST.

**MISERY.**—A favorite negro synonym for pain. If a black feels at all qualmish, he expresses himself as possessed of a *misery* in the head, chest, foot, etc.

**MISH TOPPER** (Cant). — A coat or petticoat. *Mish*, in English cant, stands for shirt or chemise, and is a corrupted form of the French *chemise*, Italian *camicia*.

**MISRECOLLECT, To.**—To forget. A factitious word of common use, as also are its equivalents MIS-REMEMBER and DIS-REMEMBER.

**MISREMEMBER, To.**—*See* the foregoing, MIS-RECOLLECT.

**MISREPRESENTATIVE.**—A representative who fails to be the mouth-piece of the views of his constituents.

**MISSING.** — AMONG THE MISSING.—Absent; (and sometimes) killed. A quaint perversion of language characterizes a variant of this phrase—to *turn up missing*.

'I tell you what, Jake, if this goes on I'll be AMONG THE MISSING before sundown; it ain't human nature to stand bein' fired at by them varmin, and not to have a crack at them in return.'—*Across the Great Desert*, 1869.

Antonio was not only lazy but he was vicious, jealous, and in some of his mad moments he had often threatened to kill Marie. Finally Marie TURNED UP MISSING, and she was no longer seen about the cabin of the half-breed. — *Missouri Republican*, February 24, 1888.

**MISSION SCHOOL.**—A ragged school. —MISSIONARYING. — Performing missionary work. —To MISSION-ATE. —To act as a missionary.

**MISS LICK.**—A Western backwoods' term for a false blow of the axe; a stroke wide of the mark.

**MISSOURI COMPROMISE.**—Long before the slavery question came to a head in the Civil War, it had been a bone of contention among the component States of the Union. What is popularly known as the *Missouri Compromise* was a sort of anticlimax in the agitation. At the time when Missouri was seeking admission to the Union, two great sections were struggling—one to promote, the other to hinder, the extension of slavery. The pro-slavery party was the stronger in Missouri; and, as a compromise between the conflicting parties, an Act of Congress was passed admitting Missouri into the Union as a slave-holding State, but which laid down the principle in prospective, that slavery should be prohibited in any State thenceforth to be admitted lying north of lat. 36° 30' the northern boundary of Missouri.

**MISSTEP.**—A false step.

In the crush last night at the Everest-Hubbard wedding, Miss Sarah Bartram, of Black Rock, made a MISSTEP in alighting from her carriage, but was saved from a fall. —*Boston Daily Globe*, February 2, 1888.

**MISTAKE.** — AND NO MISTAKE! —A common colloquialism to express certainty. At one time it rounded off almost every phrase, but its place was soon taken by SURE! and a still later catch-word is WHY CERTAINLY!

**MISTRESS.**—In the South this mode of address is rarely shortened into Mrs. In *mistress* the old English usage is followed.

**MISUNDERSTANDING.**—A LITTLE MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT A MULE.—A brutally facetious explanation in the West of the sudden disappearance of a citizen from his dail



walks and haunts. The writer of an article entitled "The Great American Language," in the *Cornhill Magazine*, remarks that a *misunderstanding* about a mule often leads to a little difference of opinion with six-shooters, which results at last in a coroner's inquest, with the modest verdict, "Died from the effects of having called Washington Wesley Smithers a liar."

**MITTEN.**—To GIVE OR GET THE MITTEN.—A euphemism very commonly colloquial throughout the English-speaking portion of North America, to signify that a proposal by marriage is rejected, or that the attentions of an admirer are distasteful. The phrase should be *to give the mittens*, as both it and the custom are of French origin, it having been usual to present *mitaines* to an unsuccessful lover, instead of the hand to which he aspired.

Once, when I was young as you, and not so smart perhaps,  
For me she MITTENED a lawyer, and several other chaps;

And all of them was flustered, and fairly taken down,

And I for a time was counted the luckiest man in town.—*Will Carleton's Farm Ballads*.

'May I see you safe home?' he asked, as he had often asked her before, but never before with trepidation. 'No,' said Rachel with an evident effort, and without looking at Tom's face. Such an answer is technically known as the sack and THE MITTEN, though it would take a more inventive antiquary than I to tell how it got these epithets. But it was one of the points on which the rural etiquette of that day was rigorous and inflexible, that such a refusal closed the conversation and annihilated the beau without allowing him to demand any explanations or to make any further advances at the time.—*Century Magazine*, 1887.

—Also shortened into TO MITTEN.

**MIXED TICKET.**—See TICKET.

**MIZZY.**—A Louisianian negro expression for the stomach-ache.

**MOABITES** (Cant).—A term given to police constables.

**MOBEE OR MOBBY.**—A drink similar to punch. Southern.

**MOBOCRACY.**—The mob; equivalent to what in England is called "the great unwashed."—Hence MOBOCRAT, similarly used.

After skimming hastily over the Irish news and some telegraphic intelligence, he came to an article headed, the MOBOCRATS of Pennsylvania. This he read carefully aloud to the old man. It was a scathing blow at the Mollie Maguires, giving them deserved condemnation.—*Pinkerton's Mollie Maguires and Detectives*.

**MOBTOWN.**—The city of Baltimore. This place has always been, and still is, notorious for the gangs of roughs and rowdies which infest its streets.

Baltimore used to be called MOB-TOWN; but they are a heap better now, and are more orderly than some of their neighbors.—*Crakett's Tour*.

**MOCCASON OR MOCCASSIN.**—An Indian shoe, made of soft leather without a stiff sole. They are usually more or less ornamented, and are very comfortable wearing in winter, giving the feet more freedom than ordinary foot gear; besides which frost-bites are less frequent amongst those who wear them. This kind of covering for the feet has, in consequence, been widely adapted by Western hunters and woodsmen. — MOCCASONED. — A Carolinian term for intoxicated. A variant of "to be bitten by the snake." — (See MOCCASSON SNAKE which follows). — MOCCASSON FISH. — In Maryland, the name given to a species of sun-fish. — MOCCASSON SNAKE (*Toxicophis piscivorus*). — A brown coloured poisonous snake, the skin of which is marked with black bars.

**MOCKER NUT** (*Juglans tomentosa*).—The white heart hickory.

**MOCKING BIRD** (*Mimus polyglottus*).—A native bird deriving its popular name from the inimitable mimic qualities with which it is endowed. Combined with its own notes of considerable sweetness, it is able to imitate any sound it may hear. In some parts the BUTTER-BIRD or NINE-KILLER is confounded with the true *mocking bird*.

**MOCK ORANGE**.—In England the syringa is so called, but in the States by *mock orange* is understood the *Prunus caroliniana*, a small ever-green which bears a resemblance to the cherry-laurel of Europe.

**MOLASSES**.—What in England is called treacle or golden syrup; terms which are probably utterly strange to most Americans. *Molasses*, as is well known, is a product of the sugar-cane. In the West the word is used in the plural; *e.g.*, those *molasses*.

**MOLLUS**.—The name of an association who held commissions during the war, called the Military Order of the Loyal Legion. *Mollus*, as will be seen, is a word composed of the initial letters of the words forming the name of the order, with the addition of *U.S.*, *i.e.*, United States. The order itself is an hereditary institution.

**MOLLY COTTON TAIL**.—A rabbit.

**MOLLYGASHER**.—A Madagascar negro. *Mollygasher* is obviously a corruption of "Malagasy."

**MOLLY MAGUIRES**.—A secret society which, for a long period, prior to 1877, terrorized the coal regions of

Pennsylvania. These men exercised well nigh unlimited power, ruling the districts involved with a rod of iron. Even the political sentiments of the commonwealth were in part moulded by them, and they controlled, in a measure, the finances of the State, and for many years spilt human blood without stint, converting the richest section of one of the most wealthy and refined of all the sisterhood of States into a very Golgotha. The Pinkerton Agency of Chicago was ultimately set upon their trail, with the result that in June, 1877, the ringleaders were executed. Since that time little or nothing has been heard of the order. Its name of *Mollie Maguires* arose from the circumstance that in the accomplishment of their designs they dressed as women.

**MOMICKS**.—In Pennsylvania, a bad carver. "To mommick," *i.e.*, to cut or handle anything awkwardly, is provincial in various parts of England; and, in all probability, *momicks* is derived therefrom.

**MONITOR**.—This name, as applied to war vessels with a revolving turret, is unquestionably of American origin, as was also the first vessel of the type.

**MONKEY, TO**.—To play tricks, from the tricky antics of the animal in question. If one may judge from the many variants of similar derivation, our American cousins may, without offence, be said to look with some degree of favor on the Darwinian theory concerning the descent of man. For example, MONKEYING AROUND, MONKEY-BUSINESS, and MONKEY-SHINES. — MONKEY-SPOON.—This is an old Americanism, which, from an old paper quoted by De Vere, appears

to be the name of a spoon, bearing the figure of an ape or *monkey* carved in solid silver on the extremity of the handle, and given at the funerals of great people in the State of New York to the pall-bearers. At the death of Philip Livingston in February, 1719, we are told "a pipe of wine was spiced for the occasion, and to each of the eight bearers, with a pair of gloves, a mourning ring, scarf, and handkerchief, and a *monkey-spoon* was given." With this it is interesting to compare the old custom of presenting apostle spoons at christenings, and the modern practice of presenting ordinary gold or silver spoons, etc., on like occasions.

This wasn't the only lesson I ever had that taught me to be wary about *MONKEYING* with cubs. Even after it was thought the mother had been killed our camp was thrown into a fine commotion one night over a woolly little cuss about three months old.—*American Humorist*, May 19, 1888.

Around these poles has been deposited immense piles of ice, for the double purpose of preventing the continual friction caused by the rapidly revolving sphere, and also of preventing inquisitive visitors from *MONKEYING* with the machinery, and either pinching their meddlesome fingers, or whittling chunks from the poles for souvenirs.—*Texas Siftings*, June 30, 1888.

**MONK FISH.**—See *DEVIL-FISH*.

**MONONGAHELA.**—A generic name for American whiskey, just as *Usquebaugh* and *Inishowen* are given to Scotch and Irish brands respectively. *Monongahela* is a river in Pennsylvania.

**MONTE.**—A Spanish-Mexican card game of pure chance, comparing favorably in that respect with poker.

**MONUMENTAL CHEEK.**—Brazen effrontery. A simile invented to indicate

impudent boldness of an irrepressibly pertinacious character.

**MONUMENTAL CITY.**—Baltimore, in the State of Maryland. This city, one of the oldest in the Union, was long distinguished for its superior monumental trophies; hence its sobriquet.

**MOON (Cant).**—A large round sea-biscuit.

The afternoon of the third day I spent my last ten cents for two *MOONS* and cheese.—*Mark Twain's Life on the Mississippi*, p. 460.

— **MOON-BLIND.** — An alleged malady, in which a man sleeping exposed to the full rays of the moon is so affected as to be unable to see at night. Many stories are current in the tropics as to the injurious effects of sleeping in the light of the moon. A newcomer is always cautioned against doing so, the warning sometimes taking a rather ludicrous form. I once heard a new arrival in British Guiana, who had to travel at night up the Demerara river, at a time when the moon was full and very brilliant, cautioned that if, during sleep, the moonbeams fell on one side of his face, his mouth would be so drawn to that side that the only means of restoring it to its normal state would be to turn over and let the moonbeams draw it back again! Though somewhat of a traveller's story, it is evident that a general impression prevails as to the injurious effects of sleeping in the light of the moon, which in the tropics shines with a brilliancy rarely known in northern latitudes.

There is said to be [a] plains malady, which, however, I cannot vouch for. It is called *MOON-BLIND*. The idea is that the full rays of the moon affect the eyes of a man sleeping exposed to them, so that he cannot see at night.—*Richard Irvine Dodge's Plains of the Great West*.



—THE DARK MOON.—The period between the last phase of the "old" and the first of the "new" moon. A similar colloquialism is current in some parts of England.

—MOONDOWN.—The time of setting of the moon—a word formed in the same way as sundown, itself an Americanism, both terms being invented as antitheses to sunrise and moonrise.—MOONEYE (*Hyodon tergisus*).—A fish of the herring kind, being called in some parts the lake and river herring.—MOON-GLADE.—A track of moonlight. This Americanism, to which even the most rigid purist could hardly take exception, originated in New England, and was at first poetically used to describe the silvery line of light cast by the moon's rays on water. It has since been extended in usage to the same phenomenon on land.—MOONRISE.—The time of rising of the moon.

By the time it was night I was pretty hungry. So when it was good and dark, I slid out from shore about MOONRISE, and paddled over to the Illinois bank—about a quarter of a mile.—*Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

—MOONSHINERS.—Distillers of illicit whiskey. The term is probably Irish or Scotch in origin. In some districts the United States revenue officers have considerable trouble with *moonshiners*, especially in the mountainous regions.

This is a small place of perhaps three or four hundred inhabitants, and was made a city as a matter of self-protection. Only a short time ago, the MOONSHINERS and mountaineers, of the MOONSHINER clique, were akin to what is said of the cow-boys. Hogs and cattle run wild, while settlers who had taken great pride and pleasure in the thrift of their gardens and orchards almost ran wild too, when they beheld the devastation of a night; so they incorporated a city, with all the proper officials, a lock-up, stock laws, etc.—*Portland Transcript*, 1888.

—MOON-SHOWER.—A fall of rain while the moon continues to shine. A similar phenomenon is often observable during sunshine.

MOOSE (*Alce americanus*).—A large deer, found in northern forests, especially those of Canada and New England. It attains a great size, some carcasses having been found to weigh upwards of twelve hundred pounds. They have been hunted so hard for their skins and for food, that yearly they are becoming scarcer.—MOOSE BIRD (*Ganulus canadensis*).—The Canada jay; also called the WHISKEY-JACK. A native of Maine.—MOOSE-FLY.—A venomous fly of a rusty brown color.—MOOSE-WOOD (*Dirca palustris*).—A favorite shrub upon which the moose-deer feeds; also called LEATHER-WOOD from its tough, leathern bark.—MOOSE-YARD.—The moose-deer congregate in families of from fifteen to twenty members, and the encampment thus formed is called a *moose-yard*.

MOP-BOARD.—A New England term for the skirting-board used in house interiors.

MOREY LETTER.—During the candidature of Garfield for the Presidency in 1880, a letter, purporting to have been written by Mr. Garfield to Mr. H. S. Morey, Employer's Union, Linn., Mass. (subsequently proved to be a forgery), was published by the New York morning papers. In it Garfield sided with capital rather than with labor. It turned out to be nothing more than an electioneering dodge, the object of which was, if possible, to jeopardize Garfield's chances of election. Needless to say no such person as H. S. Morey was ever discovered. Forged letters and such like tricks unfortunately appear to form part of the stock-in-trade of electoral campaigns in America, for at the very moment of writing this, what is known as the Sackville imbroglia has arisen out of very similar tactics.

**MORGAN.**—THAT'S A GOOD ENOUGH MORGAN.—A phrase once much used in political contests, signifying a bare-faced imposture. It arose in this wise:—In 1826 American masons were accused of having murdered a man named *Morgan*, a renegade mason, in consequence of his having revealed the secrets of the order. Popular feeling ran high, and a violent anti-masonry crusade resulted. So much was this the case that national politics were considerably influenced thereby. Mr. Thurlow Weed, one of the chief figures of the episode, gives in his autobiography (vol. i., p. 319) what is probably the only authentic version of the origin of the famous saying. Mr. Weed says:—"The election of 1827 elicited an accusation against me, which assumed proportions not dreamed of by those with whom it originated. . . . Ebenezer Griffin, Esq., one of the council of the 'kidnappers,' who was going to Batavia to conduct the examination, observed laughingly to me, 'After we have proven that the body found at Oak orchard is that of Timothy Monroe, what will you do for a *Morgan*?' I replied in the same spirit, '*That is a good enough Morgan* for us until you bring back the one you carried off.'" On the following day the *Rochester Daily Advertiser* gave what became the popular version of the story, namely, that Mr. Weed had declared that, whatever might be proven, the body "*was a good enough Morgan* until after the election."

**MORGAN HORSE.**—One Justin Morgan of Randolph, Vermont, a famous breeder of horses, gave his name to a "strain" still of great renown in sporting circles.

Presently a couple of colts, six weeks old, were brought out for our inspection by one

of the stable boys. 'Those are MORGAN COLTS,' said the clergyman. 'Why,' I exclaimed in surprise and overjoyed at finding a man of the cloth who seemed to know something about horses, 'do you know a MORGAN COLT when you see it?' 'Certainly,' said the clergyman promptly. 'Well,' continued Beck, 'it was the first time I had ever met with a minister who knew a MORGAN HORSE or any other at sight, and we have been fast friends ever since. 'Why, sir,' added Beck, in a burst of enthusiasm and admiration for his friend's knowledge of horse flesh; 'that man could have a call to any church in Kentucky.'—*Detroit Free Press*, October 13, 1888.

#### **MORMON: MORMONDOM: MORMONISM:**

**MORMONITES.**—All these are terms connected with one of the most remarkable politico-religious systems which has appeared in modern times. The *Mormon* people term themselves LATTER-DAY SAINTS, and derive the word *Mormon* from the name of the pretended author of the "*Book of Mormon*" from the Gaelic and Egyptian languages, alleging it to be compounded of *mor*, great; and *mon*, good, or great good. A correspondent of *Notes and Queries*, however (January, 1858), affirms that, in poetical justice, they owe it to an imposition practised some two hundred years ago.

A very clever French writer, the Abbé de la Mothe de Vayer, engaged, in 1650, in a spirited controversy with a famous scholar and wit, M. de Montmor. In a series of brilliant but whimsical attacks the Abbé plays countless variations on the name of his adversary, and repeatedly pretends to derive Montmor from MORMON, which he declares to be the Greek word *μορμων*, a scarecrow! Nor does the curious coincidence stop here; for the fictitious MORMON of 1643—a book pretending to have been written by M. de Montmor, but in reality a scurrilous parody—argued in favor of polygamy! Hence argues the well-known Thomas Boys (the correspondent in question), this early French work most probably furnished the author of the new book of MORMON, whoever he may have been, with the leading idea and many prominent features.

Their most characteristic tenet in the eyes of Gentiles (as they call

outsiders) is doubtless that of polygamy, concerning which the Government of the Union has enacted drastic laws with a view to stamping it out. The moral condition engendered by such teaching has become a veritable plague spot in the life of the nation.—For complete history and account of the sect, see *Fullerton's Faiths of the World*.

**MOSEY, To.**—To depart suddenly and involuntarily; to sneak away. This, with some degree of plausibility, is supposed to be a corruption of the Spanish *VAMOSE* (*q.v.*), an elision of the first syllable having occurred and the final vowel being sounded. *To mosey* is also often used in the primary simple sense of to go, and *to mosey along* with any one is also employed idiomatically in the sense of to agree with.

But the bullets and their own fighting began to tell pretty soon, even on grizzlies. First one rolled over and stretched out, then another sat down on his haunches and dropped his head and finally sprawled out, a third *MOSEYED* off some distance to sit down and lick his wounds.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, February 6, 1888.

Well, well, well, I hain't got time to be palavering along here—got to nail on the lid and *MOSEY ALONG* with him; and if you'll just give me a lift we'll skeet him into the hearse and meander along.—*Mark Twain's Screamers*.

**MOSEY SUGAR.**—In Pennsylvania a sweetmeat much liked by children.

**MOSHAY.**—A Florida term for a keeper of bloodhounds.

**MOSQUITO** (*Culex mosquito*).—A well-known insect pest with an insatiable appetite for blood. — **MOSQUITO BAR** or **MOSQUITO NET.**—As the latter name infers, a net, placed round a bed, etc., to protect a sleeper from the attacks of *mosquitoes*. Without

some such guard, life in Southern latitudes, at times, would be unbearable.—**MOSQUITO HAWK.**—The dragon-fly is so called in Louisiana.

**MOSS** (Cant).—A generic name for money. This may either be a play upon the proverb, "A rolling stone gathers no *moss*," or a contraction of "mopuses," an English cant equivalent for the commodity in question.

**MOSSBACKS.**—A local term in Ohio for a section of the Democratic party.

**MOSSBUNKER** (*Alosa menhaden*).—A herring-like fish, also known as the **BONY-FISH** (*q.v.*).

**MOSSYBANK.**—(1) A variation of **MOSSBUNKER**.—(2) This name, at the time of the Civil War, was given to men, who, to avoid conscription, fled to the woods and swamps. The connection between the hiding places thus chosen and *mossy banks* is obvious.

**MOT** or **MOTTE.**—A Texan term for a clump of trees on a prairie. These oases are also called **ISLANDS**.

**MOTH.**—See **BUTTERFLY**. — **MOTH MILLER.**—The domestic pest and the only variety of *Lepidoptera* called a *moth* in the United States, night flying kinds being erroneously called butterflies.—See **BUG**.

**MOTHER OF PRESIDENTS.**—The State of Pennsylvania.

This officer was visited by a cousin of his, a young gentleman of good presence and manners, who was not only a graduate of an institution of learning in the **MOTHER OF PRESIDENTS**, but had received his diploma as an M.D. from a medical college in



Philadelphia.—Richard Irvine Dodge's *Plains of the Great West*.

**MOTHER OF STATES.**—Virginia. A more frequent term is the Old Dominion.

**MOUGHT.**—This old preterite of "may," now obsolete in England, has been retained in the South; and, indeed, is very common in all parts of the Union. Until of late years its use was mainly confined to negroes and people in the interior of the New England States; latterly, however, a spirit of change appears to have revived the popularity of this form. In North Carolina "perhaps" is almost invariably rendered "it mought be."

You know ole Tom Grayson, his father's brother, seein' 's Tom wuz named for him, an' wuz promisin' like, an' had the gift of the gab, he thought's how Tom mought make 'n all-fired smart lawyer ur doctor, ur the like.—*Century Magazine*, 1887.

Mrs. Johnsing.—'For the Lor', Henry Clay, Jr., wat's de mattah?'

Henry Clay, Jr. [a young negro as black as ever was built].—'I doan been scared haf to def.'

'Mought ha' knowed dat, chile; you's white as a sheet.'—*Texas Siftings*, 1888.

**Mought** is sometimes corrupted into **MOWT**.

'Hol' on! Hol' on!' interrupted the old Settler, who could stand it no longer. 'That beefin' bee mowt ha' happened an' it mowtn't ha', for all I know, but wuther it did or wuther it didn't haint got nuthin' to do with w'at I'm a gittin' at, b'gosh!'—*Chicago Herald*, 1888.

**MOUND.**—A barrow or tumulus. Supposed to have been used mainly for sepulchral purposes by the early inhabitants of the country.—**MOUND BUILDERS.**—The name given to the race who built the mounds found in large numbers in the valleys of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, Mexico, Yucutan, etc. These people were evidently well acquainted with some of the minor

arts of civilization.—**MOUND CITY.**—St. Louis; the sobriquet is in allusion to the numerous mounds found in its vicinity.

**MOURNER.**—See **ANXIOUS BENCH**.

**MOUSE, To.**—Aimless or fruitless motion or action is here implied; a variation of **TO MOSEY** (*q.v.*).

The poor blunderer **MOUSES** among the sublime creations of the Old Masters, trying to acquire the elegant proficiency in art-knowledge which he has a groping sort of comprehension is a proper thing for the travelled man to be able to display.—*Mark Twain's Screemers*.

**MOVING DAY.**—The First of May.—A visitor on May-day to New York and other large centres might well imagine that some monster pilgrimage was on foot, so general is the custom among all but the wealthier classes of changing their habitation, as a matter of course, at that period of the year. This tendency has been satirized unmercifully from the time of Washington Irving downwards.

The memorable emigration [of the people of Communipaw to New Amsterdam] took place on the 1st of May, and was long cited in tradition as the grand **MOVING**. The anniversary of it was piously observed among their sons, by turning their houses topsyturvy, and carrying all their furniture into the streets, etc. And this is the real origin of the universal agitation and **MOVING** by which this most restless of cities is literally turned out-of-doors on every May-day.—*Knickerbocker*, New York.

**Mow, To** (Cant).—To kiss.

**MOWT.**—A corruption of **MOUGHT** (*q.v.*).

**MOYA MENSINGS.**—A band of Philadelphia rowdies. At another time they were called **SHIFFLERS**.

**MR. SPEAKER.**—In the parliamentary language of Texas, a revolver—a

speaker, against whose rulings there is usually no appeal.—*See* MEAT IN THE POT.

**MUCH.**—This word, in New England, is synonymous with good qualities, moral or physical, and is applied either to men or things; *e.g.*, "not much of a mule" is an animal whose good points are of a negative character; while "very much of a book," "woman," or "idea" conveys a high meed of praise in every case.

**MUCKRAKES.**—A slang political epithet for those who seek the "small change" of office—place-mongers, as they are otherwise called.

**MUD CAT.**—A species of cat-fish abounding in the waters of the Mississippi River. They attain an enormous size, and specimens have been caught weighing upwards of fifty-four pounds. They are very coarse eating, and have a muddy flavor. — **MUD-CAT STATE.**—Mississippi, its inhabitants being sometimes humorously designated **MUD-CATS.** — **MUD-DABBLER.**—A small freshwater fish. — **MUD-DEVIL.**—A species of salamander is so called in the West; it possesses many other *aliases*. — **MUD-FISH** (*Melanura pygmaea*).—A mud-burrowing fish of small size, found on the Atlantic coast. — **MUD-HEAD.**—A native of the State of Tennessee. — **MUD-HEN** (1) (*Rallus crepitans*).—The Virginian rail, which is also called **MARSH-HEN**. (2) In **BUCKET-SHOP** (*q.v.*) phraseology, a woman who dabbles in stock gambling. — **MUD-HOOK.**—An anchor. — **MUD-LUMPS.**—The mud-banks which form at the mouth of the Mississippi are thus designated. — **MUD-POKE** (*Grus cinerea*).—A crane has received this name

from its habit of resting on the mud at the sides of streams whilst engaged in catching fish. — **MUD-POUT.**—A species of CAT (*q.v.*) — **MUD-SCOOP.**—A water-dredging machine. — **MUD-SILL.**—The lower classes of society. This phrase was derived from the name given to the railway-sleepers which form the foundation upon which the rails are laid, the idea being that labor is the *mud-sill* of society. This epithet was also applied contemptuously to Southerners by Northerners at the period of the Civil War. — **MUD-SILL CLUBS.**—In 1858 associations of miners and working-men in California received this name. — **MUD-TURTLE** (*Sternotherus odorata*). — Other names for this reptile, which is common throughout the States, are **MARSH-TORTOISE** and **MUD-TERRAPIN**.

**MUGWUMP.**—A Republican who claims a right at times to vote independently of his party. Mr. Charles F. Norton, the author of *Political Americans*, defines a *mugwump* as "one who sets himself up as better than his fellows; a Pharisee," the political bias of which is clear. Mr. Norton gives the following interesting account of the origin, probable derivation, and application of the term.

On the nomination of the Hon. James G. Blaine for the Presidency (June 6th, 1884), a strong opposition developed among disaffected Republicans, calling themselves Independents. The movement originated at a meeting in Boston (June 7th), and was promptly taken up in New York and elsewhere. The supporters of the regular nomination affected to believe that these Independents set themselves up as the superiors of their former associates. They were called Dudes, Pharisees and hypocrites, and on June 15th, 1884, *The New York Sun* called them *mugwumps*. The word was forthwith adopted by the public as curiously appropriate, though for a time its meaning was problematical. It appeared that the term had been in use colloquially in some parts of New England,

notably on the Massachusetts coast. Thence it had been carried inland, and was used in large type as a head-line in *The Indianapolis Sentinel* as early as 1872. This, on the authority of Mr. H. F. Keenan, who was at the time editor of that journal, and had picked up the word in New England. In this instance it was used to emphasize some local issue. After this the word seems to have lain *perdu* until resuscitated by *The Sun*, on March 23rd, 1884, when it applied it in a local issue at Dobb's Ferry, New York, printing MUGWUMP D. O. Bradley, in large type, at the top of one of its prominent columns. After the Independent movement was started, the word was launched on its career of popularity; but not until September 6th, 1884, was it authoritatively defined. *The Critic* of that date contained a note from Dr. J. Hammond Trumbull, of Hartford, to the effect that the word was of Algonquin origin, and occurred in Elliotts' Indian Bible, being used to translate such titles as lord, high-captain, chief, great man, leader, or duke. In Matthew vi. 21, it occurs as MUGWUMP; and again in Genesis xxxvii. 40-43, and several times in II. Samuel xxiii. The word aroused widespread philological discussion, which continued long after the campaign had ended. As is frequently the case in American politics, the word was used as a term of derision and reproach by one section, and accepted with a half-humorous sense of its aptness by the other.

Blaine's letter hurts the MUGWUMPS. They have no excuse for being Democrats now save pure cussedness.—*Toledo Blade*, 1888.

The phrase is often used colloquially in a similar sense.

Here Cassius and Brutus meet, and Cassius tries to make a MUGWUMP of Brutus, so that they can organize a new movement. Mr. Edwin Booth takes the character of Brutus, and Mr. Lawrence Barrett takes that of Cassius.—*American Humorist*, 1888.

**MULADA.**—A drove of mules. Spanish.

**MULATTO.**—A name given to the offspring of a white and a negro. The word is Spanish, *mulato* from *mulo* a mule, or, as in this case, a mixed breed. Generally speaking, all persons with a "touch of the tar brush" are, in the States, called *mulattoes*, although experts draw very fine distinctions in the amount of mixedness displayed by any

given example. The grades are as follows:—

MULATTO,  $\frac{1}{2}$  black, white and negro; Quarteron [quadroon],  $\frac{1}{4}$  black, white and MULATTO; Métis or métif,  $\frac{1}{8}$  black, white and quarteron; Meamelouc,  $\frac{1}{16}$  black, white and métis; Demi-meamelouc,  $\frac{1}{32}$  black, white and meamelouc; Sang-mêle,  $\frac{1}{64}$  black, white and demi-meamelouc; Griffé,  $\frac{1}{128}$  black, negro and MULATTO; Marabou,  $\frac{1}{256}$  black, MULATTO and griffe; Sacatra,  $\frac{1}{512}$  black, griffe and negro.

**MULE.**—It was hardly to be expected, nor perhaps as far as humor goes to be desired, that the *mule* would escape the biting wit of transatlantic writers. The tricky nature and stubborn will of this Heathen Chinee among quadrupeds, have quite out-Heroded Herod "in ways that are dark and tricks that are vain"; hence the thousand-and-one MULE STORIES scattered here, there, and everywhere in the ephemeral literature of the day. To deal with the mass of matter of this description, which a fun-loving chief of staff assures a confiding (too confiding would often be more accurate) public is daily pouring in from North, East, South and West—a Sub is engaged whose distinctive name of MULE EDITOR is supposed accurately to describe his duties. The fun itself passes current under many names—MULE-JOKE will serve as a sample, and MULEBRIETY is supposed to mean—"the exuberance" not of "verboosity" but of nonsense.

A philosopher has just discovered that large ears indicate mental activity. We always supposed that they indicated activity in the heels. (This is the first MULE-JOKE that we have gotten off in four years, but it is well disguised.)—*Evansville Argus*, 1888.

In his latest book, Mr. Bret Harte frequently uses such words as MULEBRIETY. He has a well-earned reputation as a good writer. It would be a pity if he degenerated into a fine writer.—*Missouri Republican*, 1888.

—MULE DEER (*Cervus columbianus* or *macrotis*).—The black-tailed



deer is so called in some parts of the country from its long, heavy ears. — **MULE RABBIT**, the JACK-ASS RABBIT (*q.v.*). — **MULE SKINNER**.—A plain's term for a driver of mules, in very truth the cognomen in some cases would bear literal translation.

**MULEY OR MULLEY**.—In Texas *muley* always means hornless. In New England *muley* simply means a cow, and in Connecticut distinctly a hornless cow.

He was evidently in search of strays, for he asked me if I had seen a red **MULLEY** cow with a crop and underbit in the right, and a marked crop in the left.—*Overland Monthly*.

*Muley* is provincial in England. — **MULEY SAW**.—A mill saw, from the German *mühlsäge*.

**MULL, To**.—To stir; to bustle; or to fume. Lowell adds "sometimes in an underhand, sneaking or *sotte* *voce* manner." It is a metaphor derived probably from *mulling* wine, and the word itself must be a corruption of *mell* from Old French *mesler*.

**MULLIGAN LETTERS**.—These letters formed the subject of a public dispute about the year 1876, when a Mr. James Mulligan, giving evidence before an investigating committee appointed by Congress, produced them against Mr. J. G. Blaine, a well-known politician, who has since (1888) stood for the Presidency of the United States. The point at issue was whether these letters were creditable or the reverse to Mr. Blaine.

**MULTIPLICATION, DIVISION, AND SILENCE!**—William M. Tweed, or, as he is more familiarly known, "Boss" Tweed, is generally credited with this expression. Being asked

what in his view was the proper qualification for a member of a RING or TRUST (*q.v.*), in which all play into each other's hands for mutual advantages, he replied, *multiplication, division, and silence!* The incident is reported to have taken place in Philadelphia, and it is sometimes given as ADDITION, DIVISION, AND SILENCE! meaning very much the same thing.

**MUMMACHOG** (*Fundulus*).—A local term in Long Island for the BARRED KILLY. *Mummachog* is the Indian name for the fish in question.

**MUMMICK, To**.—See **MUMICKS**. "Now you've mummicked that pie pretty well"—an old saying.

**MUNG**.—From Old English "to ming" (the modern form is *mingle*); *mung* signifies confused; contradictory; false; or even fictitious. The word is mostly associated with news; as "*mung*" news, *i.e.*, intelligence of an unreliable and contradictory character.

**MUNROE DOCTRINE**.—Briefly, this may be described as a theory that the American continent is no longer open to any attempt on the part of European powers farther to extend their jurisdiction, whether by colonization or political interference. Also, on the same principle, the United States decline to meddle with the political affairs of the Eastern Hemisphere. This doctrine, as the name implies, was originated by Mr. Munroe, the fifth President of the Republic of the West, who, in 1820, was elected without opposition for a second term of office. In 1823 a discussion arose between the United States Government and those of Russia and Great Britain in regard to the proper limits of the North-western terri-

tory. In view of possible developments which, in the eyes of Americans, have since fully justified the action of their Chief Magistrate, Mr. Munroe, at the instance of John Quincy Adams, the real author of the principle, asserted as an axiom in which the rights and interests of the United States were involved, that the American continents, by the free and independent condition which they had assumed and maintained, were henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European power. The line of argument stated that the proprietary rights of Spain had passed over to the South American States and Mexico, and that since Great Britain and the United States claimed to extend their jurisdiction to the Pacific, and thus over the whole of the North-western territories, it hence resulted that both the Northern and Southern Continents of America had passed under the civil dominion of the several States, among which they were parcelled, and were thus open to Europeans and each other only on the footing of so many independent sovereignties, claiming and asserting a jurisdiction which shielded the whole continent from encroachments under the old and long-recognized rights of discovery and settlement. Subsequently, by a second message, Mr. Munroe declared, acting in concert with Great Britain, that the United States would consider any attempt on the part of European Powers to extend their system to any portion of the Western Hemisphere as dangerous to the public peace and safety. The successful effort in late years to relieve Mexico from a foreign ruler and French armies was a practical illustration of the *Munroe doctrine*, and on the same grounds considerable excitement prevailed in the States as to the

action Great Britain would take in the dispute, still unsettled, between British Guiana and Venezuela concerning the frontier line of those two countries. The same principle was involved, though, of course, quite distinct from American politics, in the request recently made by the Government of Victoria to the Home Office for such action as would prevent a foreign power (Germany) establishing itself at the very doors of the future Republic of the Southern Seas.

**MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE, SECOND DEGREE, ETC.**—A distinction is made in American law between degrees of crime, both in offences against the person and against property.

The jury in the case of Antonio D'Andrea, on trial for MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE, for having advised Chiara Cignarale to kill her husband, retired at 3.30 p.m., and returned at 4.30 with a verdict of not guilty. The Cignarale woman is under sentence of death for the crime. D'Andrea was her alleged paramour, and it is charged that he agreed to marry her if she would shoot her husband.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, Feb. 2, 1888.

District Attorney Hamilton said he understood that the defendant wished to withdraw his plea of not guilty of MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE, and to enter the plea of guilty of MURDER IN THE SECOND DEGREE.—*Charlestown News and Courier*, Jan. 30, 1888.

TO BURGLARY IN THE THIRD DEGREE, John B. Michael pleaded guilty. He was sentenced to Dannemora for two years. Hosea W. Knowlton, for ASSAULT IN THE FIRST DEGREE, on his father, William Knowlton, pleaded guilty, and he was sent to Dannemora for two years.—*Troy Daily Times*, Jan. 31, 1888.

**MURPHIES.**—A New York term for a gang of rowdies, mainly composed of Irishmen—hence the distinctively national patronym.

**MUSH.**—A kind of hasty-pudding or porridge (being often so called), made of Indian meal boiled in

water. It is eaten either with milk or treacle.—A MUSH OF CONCESSION.—A woman is said to be a *mush of concession* when yielding and clinging in nature.

**MUSIC.**—Fun; frolic; amusement. Oliver Wendell Holmes uses the phrase, "I can't say it's *musical*," meaning amusing. This rendering is most frequently heard in New England, but is by no means confined to that part of the country.

My lawful sakes! What be they goin' to do about it? inquired Lyddy Bangs, flushing with excitement. Thet be too **MUSICAL**.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

—(Cant).—The verdict of a jury when they find Not Guilty—*music*, indeed, no doubt.—**MUSICAL BOX**.—A Confederate's term, half-jocose, half-satirical, for a creaking army-waggon in use during the Civil War. Also called Jeff Davis' box.—**TO FACE THE MUSIC**.—To show one's hand; to meet an emergency; or, "to come up to the scratch." This phrase is sometimes erroneously quoted as English slang, but there can be little question as to its American origin, although considerable doubt exists as to its true derivation. J. Fenimore Cooper thought it derived from the stage, and used by actors in the green-room, when they are nervously preparing to go on the boards and literally *face the music*. Another explanation traces it back to militia musters, where every man is expected to appear fully equipped and armed, when in rank and file, *facing the music*.

I am sure Fred can explain everything satisfactorily. As soon as I see him I will go with him to the Chief of Police and have him make a statement. I hope he hasn't read the newspaper stories about him, for it might scare him, and he'd very foolishly skip out. That would be the worst thing he could do. He must **FACE THE MUSIC**.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, Feb. 20, 1888.

—**MUSICIANER**.—A New England colloquialism, which is, or was provincial in Norfolk for musician.

**MUSKEET, MUSKETO GRASS**.—See **MESQUIT**.

**MUSKEG**.—An Indian name for a bog.

The whole **MUSKEG**, when a train is passing, shows a series of short waves five to six inches deep.—*St. Paul and Minneapolis Pioneer Press*, July 22, 1888.

**MUSKELUNGE OR MUSKALOUNGE** (*Esox estor*).—An Indian name for a large pike, found in all Northern lakes and rivers. At times it attains a weight of upwards of eighty pounds.

**MUSK MELON**.—See **CANTALOUPE**.

**MUSK OX**.—An animal found in the Northern latitudes of the American continent. It receives its name from the peculiar odour emitted by it at times.

**MUSK RAT** (*Fiber zibethicus*).—This animal, which is elsewhere known as the *musquash* (its Indian name), is in form and habits something like the beaver. It is only in summer that the animal is distinguished by a particular odour.

**MUSLIN**.—In some States *muslin* is synonymous with longcloth or **CALICO** (*q.v.*) shirting. This divergence of usage, in different parts of the Union, leads at times to some curiously amusing mistakes. De Vere quotes the following:—"A gentleman in Philadelphia ordered *muslin* shirts in Boston, and although reminded of the unsuitableness of that material for the climate in which he lived, insisted upon his order, as he had always worn *muslin*, meaning cotton-shirting.



When his shirts arrived, they were made of Swiss mull! The term *muslin* is, at the North, only used for thin, clear fabrics."

**MUSQUASH.**—See MUSK RAT.—MUSQUASH ROOT (*Cicuta maculata*).—A deadly poisonous plant growing in swamps.

**MUSS.**—This word is colloquial and is used with many shades of meaning, the central idea being that of confusion and disorder. Amongst other significations, it bears that of noisy squabbling. In all probability it is a mere corruption of "mess."—To MUSS, or MUX.—To disarrange; cast into disorder; crumple. There is also the adjective mussy with a similar meaning and an identical form, *i.e.*, mussy, from the Dutch *morsig*, is used for dirty; smeary; smudgy.

Your reporter visited the rooms and saw them as they were found. The bed was neatly made by a woman's hand, not a spread wrinkled, not a towel MUSSED, not a drop of water in wash-bowl or bucket in the bedroom where they were supposed to have slept and to have vacated so early Tuesday morning.—*American Paper*, 1888.

Country Groom (to waiter).—'Raw oysters for two, mister.'

Waiter.—'Yes, sir—have 'em in the shell?'

Groom (to bride).—'That suit you, lovey?'

Bride (dubiously).—'Why—er—yes, John, if you think you kin open 'em 'thout makin' a muss.'—*Texas Siftings*, August 18, 1888.

Neither of us got two winks of sleep during the night on the car, and Mr. Bowser narrowly escaped coming into deadly conflict with conductor and porter. We reached Chicago in a MUSSED up condition.—*Detroit Free Press*, 1888.

**MUSTAFINA.**—A person in whom the proportion of black blood is one-sixteenth.—See MULATTO.

**MUSTANG.**—A horse of Spanish and Indian breed. Large herds of these wild horses roam the Western prairies, especially those of South-western Texas.—See BRONCHO and CAYUSE. When young and untrained plainsmen call them cow-PONIES.

In this event, writes he, do not select a MUSTANG . . . unless you want to be initiated into the mysteries of bucking. The MUSTANG is the only animal in the world that can buck, and it ought to be a source of thanksgiving that such is the case. The buck consists of the MUSTANG's springing forward with quick, short, plunging leaps, and coming down stiff-legged, with his head between his fore-legs, and as near the ground as possible.—*Chicago Tribune*.

—MUSTANGERS.—Men who catch and train mustangs.—

MUSTANG-GRAPE (*Vitis rotundiflora*).

—A grape indigenous to Texas.

**MUSTEE.**—See MULATTO.

**MUSTER OUT, To.**—A curious idiom for entering the names of troops on a roll previous to their discharge.

**MUTTON-HEAD.**—A dull-witted person; a CHOWDER-HEAD (*q.v.*).

**MUX, To.**—See MUSS.

**MY UNCONVERTED FRIEND.**—In Texas a revolver is thus facetiously described.—See MEAT IN THE POT.



**AB** (Cant).—A dandy ; coxcomb or dude.  
—NABBLER (Cant).  
—A thief. —NAB-CHEAT (Cant). —A hat. —NAB-GIRDER (Cant).—A bridle.

**NACKY** (Cant).—Ingenious ; evidently a corruption of "knack" in the sense of dexterity.

**NAIL**.—ANOTHER LIE NAILED TO THE COUNTER.—*See* LIE.

**NAHOO** (*Ulmus alata*).—A common species of elm.

**NAKED POSSESSOR**.—Where no title can be shown to land the occupant is termed a *naked possessor*. This usage is mainly confined to the South-western States.

**NAMASE, To** (Cant).—To decamp ; "to bolt ; to get clear away."

**NAMAYCUSH** (*Salmo namaycush*).—The well-known trout of the Northern lakes.

**NAMES**.—These, in many respects, are unique and characteristic, though occasionally exhibiting a sad lack of the fitness of things. Perhaps the most prominent instance, and certainly that which strikes "the stranger within the gates" most forcibly, is the tendency to bestow pet sobriquets on local habitations

and homes. Hardly a state or town of any considerable size (and the "unconsidered trifles" in the shape of "cities" are by no means neglected in this respect) but has a nickname. Most of these will be found in their order throughout this work, and a special group under city (*q.v.*). They are for the most part, fairly accurately descriptive. As regards the slang names given to the citizens of the various States, the following list comprises those most popularly colloquial.

The inhabitants of Maine are called foxes ; those of New Hampshire, granite boys ; of Vermont, Green Mountain boys ; Massachusetts, Bay State Boys ; Rhode Island, gun flints ; Connecticut, wooden nutmegs ; New York, knickerbockers ; New Jersey, blues or clam catchers ; Pennsylvania, Penamites or leather heads ; Delaware, blue hen's chickens ; Maryland, clam humpers ; Virginia, beagles ; North Carolina, tuckoes ; South Carolina, weasels ; Georgia, buzzards ; Alabama, lizards ; Mississippi, tadpoles ; Florida, fly-up-the-creeks ; Louisiana, Creoles ; Texas, beef heads ; Arkansas, toothpicks ; Missouri, pukes ; Tennessee, whelps ; Kentucky, corn-crackers ; Ohio, buckeyes ; Indiana, hoosiers ; Illinois, suckers ; Michigan, wolverines ; Wisconsin, badgers ; Minnesota, gophers ; Iowa, hawkeyes ; California, gold hunters ; Nevada, sage hens ; Oregon, hard cases ; Nebraska, bug eaters ; Kansas, jay hawks ; Colorado, rovers ; Dakota, squatters ; Utah, polygamists ; New Mexico, Spanish Indians ; Idaho, fortune seekers or cut-throats ; Nova Scotia, blue noses ; Canada, canucks.

The ordinary geographical nomenclature, however, presents a remarkable want of uniformity in almost every particular. With their usual courage, our cousins across the water have not hesitated

to grapple with the problem thus set before them, on lines which certainly lack nothing in force, if wanting sometimes in originality. Contrary to expectation, a slavish imitation controls much of the naming of new towns in America. The names of towns, villages, and other "geographical expressions" seem to have been formulated by considerations which, though sometimes novel, occasionally unique, are, in the main, commonplace; (no offence, Uncle Sam!) The sources from which Brother Jonathan has drawn his inspiration are innumerable. The Old World has been laid under heavy contribution to supply cognomens for the newer and freer West. London, Glasgow, Paris, Lisbon, Rome, Alexandria, and many another notable city, find a counter-part in the Great Republic of the West, sometimes two, three, and four, nay a score deep. New Boston may be found in eight of the States, New London in fourteen, Newport in twenty-three, Newtown in fifteen, New Hope in fifteen, while there are three New Philadelphias. Report even speaks of a man who wanted once to christen a new village in the West, New New York. The classics, too, are "all there." Athens, Troy, Sparta, Sardis, and Utica are still breathing entities. On the other hand the Puritan fathers, with loyal allegiance to principles, which if stern, were genuine enough to cover many shortcomings, reproduced the world-famed names of the Bible story—hence Emmaus, Bethlehem, Salem, Canaan, and Lebanon. Nor is a comic element wanting. The Wild West stands pre-eminent in this respect, and is startling in its originality. Among the names of towns in Texas, for example, may be mentioned.

Lick Skillet, Buck Snort, Nip Tuck, Jimtown, Rake Pocket, Hog Eye, Fairplay, Seven League, Steal Easy, Possum Trot, Flat Heel, Frog Level, Short Pone, Gourd Neck, Shake Kag, Poverty Slant, Black Ankle, Jim Ned.

Turning from names of locality to those of individuals, the ingenuity of the American mind is scarcely less noticeable. The GIVEN NAMES (*q.v.*) go far to exhaust, to use Mr. Gladstone's phrase, "the resources of civilization." In indexing title-deeds in Maine, the following curious examples were scheduled:—

Ledoc, Generous, Passchal, Lupina, Mighil, Arannah, Squire, Deluva, Barcillai, Calvary, Hartson, Zophau, Philander, Mories, Axiel, Hopestill, Piram, Jerathmael, Rancil, Hazareman, Sprout, Demeric, Bana, Angler, Uzza, Lilia, Cad, Luton, Cyprian, Ivory, Jacon, Kilah, Orrah, Cadwallader, Galon, Loven, Diodamia, Grinfil, Mesbach, Liberty, Autumers, Haddassah, Esek, Sahra, Rispah, and Zophan.

This list, however, is by no means exhaustive. In some cases, where fecundity rules the roost, it has proved a serious matter to find suitable appellations wherewith to designate Young America. So hopeless has the task occasionally been, that one Stickney, in one of the New Londons to be found in fourteen of the American States, thinking to perpetuate his honorable patronym, hit upon the simple, though monotonous expedient of dubbing his firstborn Stickney No. 1. This child was not the only son of his mother; for in due course "another Richmond held the field" in Stickney No. 2. The process continued until Stickney No. 12 scored honors all round. This is by no means a solitary instance, as may be gleaned from the fact, that another citizen of the Stars and Stripes, thinking his duty to his country fully accomplished, labelled his fourteenth girl "Finis." Alas! for



human hopes; he was not a prophet in his own country, for lo! and behold! when the time of his mourning and desolation was fully accomplished, his quiver grew "more full and overflowing" with yet another hostage to fortune, whom, in sheer desperation and shamefacedness, he could only register as "Addendum." Nor must the "fourth estate" be left unmentioned. Passing by the more familiar titles, space will only permit of a few of the more remarkable names for newspapers. Here is a short but confessedly incomplete list:—

The Wano Rustler, Chesterville Paralyzer, Cherokee Cyclone, Cimanon Sod House, Lake City Prairie Dog, South Center Bazoo, Valley Falls Lucifer, Garden City Irrigator, Fargo Springs Prairie Owl, Garden City Bundle of Sticks, Dodge City Cow Boy, Greenfield Cap Sheaf. In Iowa is a town called Woodbine, and when a paper was started there the editor naturally called it *The Woodbine Twineth*. At Oakland, in the same State, the only journal in the place is called *Oakland Acorn*. One in Spearville is called the *Spearville Blade*. Among the papers with alliterative names in Kansas are:—*Lebo Light*, *Lenora Leader*, *Levado Ledger*, *Kinkaid Knuckle*, and *Simpson Siftings*.

In short the nomenclature of every department of American life and thought will well repay careful study on the part of the philologist, curious in the eccentricities of language.—*ALL THAT THE NAME IMPLIES*.—A catch-phrase, which originated in a chance expression used during the *cause célèbre* of the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher.—*GIVEN NAME*.—A Christian name. *See GIVEN NAME*.—*MY NAME IS HAINES!*—A slang intimation of an intention to depart quickly; to be off with alacrity. This expression is similar in character to "There's the door, and your name is Walker!" It is said to have originated in an incident in the life of President Jefferson.

**NARRAGANSETT PACER**.—At one time a breed of horses much esteemed for their speed and other good points. As the name implies, *Narragansett Bay*, in Rhode Island, was the principal breeding centre for these animals.

**NARROW GAUGE MULE**.—An animal of no, or little account. The turn-out which comprises a *narrow gauge mule* hitched on to "a mean one-horse chaise," and driven by "a bad crowd generally," is one to which no self-respecting American would care to own.

**NARY**.—As an emphatic negative *nary* may be classed as a genuine Americanism; e.g., "Were you at Delmonico's last night?" "*Nary!*" As a contraction of "ne'er a one," *nary* is, of course, quite as much English as American; but although generally colloquial, this usage has not yet passed out of the limbo of slang. In the United States, however, both forms of the expression are in common use.—*NARY CENT* OR *NARY RED*.—The man who has *nary cent* is impecunious indeed; a contraction of "ne'er (not) a cent" OR *RED CENT* (*q.v.*).

**NASEBERRY**.—A variety of *SAPODILLA* (*q.v.*).

**NASK** (Cant).—A House of Detention.

**NATIONAL DEMOCRATS**.—A section of the Democratic party, who profess to deal with American affairs upon a national basis, and not from the stand-point of any one State or group of States. They are, of course, naturally antagonistic to the doctrine of *STATES' RIGHTS* (*q.v.*), a question which, perhaps more than slavery, was the real point at issue in the Civil War.

**NATIVE AMERICANS.**—A political party, which originated about the year 1846, being the outcome of an attempt on the part of a body of citizens of foreign birth, to control municipal affairs. To circumvent this organization, a *native American* party was formed, avowedly to limit the holding of office, etc., to citizens of American birth, and to ensure this they advocated the extension of the period of residence before naturalization papers could be issued—from seven to twenty-one years. Also simply called **AMERICAN PARTY** (*see* **AMERICAN**), and in later years, **KNOW-NOTHINGS** (*q.v.*).

**NATIVISM.**—The principles advocated by the American or Native American Party, otherwise **Know-Nothings**.—*See* **NATIVE AMERICANS**.

**NATURAL.**—(1) The passions and instincts which connect man with the brute creation are characterized as *natural*. Thus a man prone to savage anger, or otherwise cruel in disposition, is stigmatised as a *natural* man—one whose actions and impulses are dominated by his lower or animal nature.—(2) *Natural* is also used in another sense now peculiar to America, meaning "native," *e.g.*, a *natural* born American signifies nothing more serious than birth within the precincts of the United States, and would have no reference, as in England, to the question of legitimacy.—(Cant).—(1) Not given to squeamishness. (2) In thieves' parlance a *natural* is anything but the dull, stupid fellow usually meant by the term in England. On the contrary, he is clever, quick-witted, and generously inclined.

**NAVAL OFFICER.**—This is the title of a chief or superintendent of depart-

ment in the Customs service of the United States.

**NAVY-SHERRY.**—The grog served out to seamen in the United States' navy.

**NAZY** (Cant).—Drunken.

**NEAP.**—Used in some parts of New England for the tongue or pole of a cart or wagon.—*Worcester*.

**NEB** (Cant).—The face. Curiously curt are some of the terms used by thieves and their associates to designate parts of the body. The **NIB** is the mouth, also **NUSH**, whilst **NUB** signifies the neck, and **NUT** the head. Variants for all these are of course numerous; indeed, there seems little chance of a thief being hard up for a term with which to express his meaning.

**NECK.**—Generally applied, in old colony days, to land lying between rivers.—**NECK OF THE WOODS.**—A plantation or settlement situated in woodland districts. This term is mostly met with in the South-west.—**SHOT IN THE NECK.**—Drunk. Circumlocutions of this kind are very numerous.—**NECK WEED** (Cant).—Hemp; doubtless so called because of the use to which that product is put in furnishing "hempen cravats" or hangman's ropes.

**NECK-TIE SOCIABLE.**—A Vigilance Committee's execution carried out by hanging. Western.

There was my friend, Will Wylie, who struck it rich on his first venture in the mines of Montana; started with teams and wagons to California, and on the way was robbed of every ounce of his dust by the then swarming road agents. . . . Finally returning to Montana, he joined the Vigilantes, and had the pleasure of presiding at a **NECK-TIE SOCIABLE** where two of the men

who had robbed him were hanged.—*J. H. Beadle's Western Wilds.*

**NECKWEAR.**—A necktie: compare with UNDER-WEAR.

Large assortment of fine men's NECKWEAR, knot scarfs, with silk or satin lining, at 29c., worth 40c.; 49c., worth 75c.—*Adot, in New York Herald, November 4, 1888.*

**NED (Cant).**—A ten dollar gold piece. In English slang, the same term is synonymous with a guinea.

**NEEDCESSITY.**—A corruption of "necessity."

**NEGRO.**—A word which, derived from the Spanish, simply means a black man. Since the abolition of slavery and the subsequent enfranchisement of the *negro*, this appellation has, upon occasion, been supplanted by terms more non-committal in character. Amongst such may be mentioned FREEDMEN, COLORED MEN, CONTRABAND, UNBLEACHED AMERICANS, or FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT PERSUASION. — **NEGRO CLOTH.**—A fabric manufactured exclusively for *negro* use. It is light in texture, and is a mixture of cotton and wool. — **NEGRO CORN.**—In the West Indies, Indian millet or durra is so called. — **NEGRO DRIVER.**—The overseer of a gang of *negroes*. — **NEGRO-FELLOW.**—An opprobrious term for a *negro*, the addition of the word "fellow" being supposed to carry unutterable contumely with it. — **NEGRO-HATE.**—The abhorrence of *negroes*. — **NEGRO-HEAD.**—(1) A well-known brand of prepared tobacco; known also as CAVENDISH. The leaf is soaked in molasses, and then pressed into a hard cake. (2) A clump of roots of trees or ferns in the swamps of the South. — **NEGRO-HOUND.**—A breed of dog, formerly used in

tracking escaped slaves. — **NEGROISM.**—(1) A word or phrase of *negro* origin, or peculiar in usage to *negroes*. (2) Opinions favorable to *negroes* or slavery. — **NEGROLESS.**—A compound word, formerly used to signify a condition of possessing no property in the shape of slaves. — **NEGROPHILISM.**—The anti-slavery movement. — **NEGRO SPEECH and NEGRO PROVERBS.**—Quashie delights in nothing more than grandiloquent and exuberant verbosity of speech. This trait of his character is so well known, and has been so frequently described, that it would be superfluous to dwell upon the subject in detail. Suffice it to say that he will deliberately use high-sounding words and phrases without the slightest conception of their meaning. For example—Sambo, not to be behind the times in the craze of so-called Æstheticism, which a short time since ran riot as a society fad, gravely informed the writer that he "much liked æsthetics;" upon which, thinking he probably knew as much about the subject as the "wat'r milyun" he was contentedly munching at the time, the inquiry was made, "How do you like them?" "For breakfast, massa," was the prompt reply! Quaintly odd, too, is the nomenclature of *negro* societies—political, religious, and otherwise. In Charleston there are more societies mainly *negro* than probably in any other city of its size in the world. So much so is this the case, that it must be a matter of considerable difficulty to invent new names for the many fresh organizations constantly arising. One of the latest bears the unique title of "The Sons and Daughters of I will Arise." As regards *negro proverbs*, the following are current in Jamaica:—(1) Soffly catch monkey [there are



no monkeys indigenous to Jamaica, and therefore this may be of African origin]. (2) Half crape carrat neber smart. (3) Crab nyam creole, creole nyam crab [this is purely local]. (4) You nebber yerrie pumpkin bring water-melon. (5) You no catch Harry—you catch him pack. (6) Fowl nyam done wipe mout in a grass. (7) Pear seed big more dan cotten tree [an allusion to the AVOCADO PEAR (*q.v.*)]. (8) Something more dan man, make woman laugh. (9) Any cry do for berrin [berrin = funeral]. (10) Trouble catch man—pic'ninny frock fit 'im. (11) No man da house, wife hab blin' eye fo' pick'ninny. (12) Me no bread nut—make fig take root on me [You can't impose upon me]. (13) Heartburn no bring good pick'ninny. (14) If you cross John Crow, guinea hen get vex. (15) Hansom woman no fi one man [an allusion to woman's frailty; color makes no difference]. (16) If you yerrie buckra too much, you go da court-house [*i.e.*, be careful how you listen to white men]. (17) When rain da fall hebby, John Crow say, "Jus' de rain done me go make house." When de rain done, he say, "Cho! wherra me do wid house!" [Johnny Crow is the carrion crow, and the whole proverb is a *negro* rendering of—

"When the devil was sick, the devil a monk would be;  
When the devil got well, the devil a monk was he."]

(18) Alligator no tongue hab, so him nyam daag [alligators are extremely partial to dog flesh; they will take a dog in preference to any other prey]. (19) Long *pap* make okro 'poil 'pon tree [pap — stir-about; ochra, a vegetable for making soup]. (20) When dog hab too much, massa

hungry. (21) When dog mangy, him head big [the less account a man is the more does he put on airs.—*See* BIG HEAD]. (22) Him go dead—him see de seben tar [negroes believe that when horses and dogs are killed at night by falling over ravines, which are numerous in Jamaica, it is in consequence of their looking up at the Pleiades].—NEGRO-WORSHIPPER. —A sarcastic term applied by Southerners to the people of the Northern States; synonymous, in the Confederate mind, with ABOLITIONIST (*q.v.*).

**NEIGHBORHOOD.**—The meaning of "near by," or "in the vicinity of," attached to this word, is, properly speaking, confined to places. Americans, however, sometimes curiously misuse it to signify approximation to a given quantity, *e.g.*, "I walked in the *neighborhood* of twenty miles this morning." Probably only an ignorant vulgarity, its occasional use in journalism notwithstanding.

It is estimated that there are in the NEIGHBORHOOD of 12,393 young men in Buffalo with real estate on their hands which they wish to dispose of at a high figure—a figure that will enable them to retire from business and play pool all the rest of their lives.—*Buffalo Courier*, May, 1888.

**NEMAN** (Cant).—Stealing.

**NERVY.**—Robust; strong; vigorous. A new form derived from that sense of "nervous," meaning "pithy" and "spirited" as regards, *e.g.*, style in writing.

He was assisting her on with her glove. It had already taken him five minutes, and he was trembling in every limb. 'Perhaps, Mr. Smith,' she suggested, 'If I should remove my engagement ring you would find less difficulty.' This proved, indeed, to be the case, and Mr. Smith's trembling limbs resumed their normal NERVY condition.—*New York Sun*, April, 1888.

**NESCIO** (Cant).—The employment of this word by American thieves is, perhaps, one of the most curious instances of a purely Latin word being incorporated into their jargon. A literal translation *ne*, not, and *scio*, I know, exactly gives its cant meaning.—No! I don't know; can't say.

**NETOP**.—A word little heard now, but once colloquial in Massachusetts. *Netop* is a Narragansett Indian word, meaning literally "my friend."

**NETTLED** (Cant).—Afflicted with disease.

**NEW AMSTERDAM**.—The City of New York was formerly so-named.

**NEW ENGLAND OF THE WEST**.—The State of Minnesota, many New Englanders having settled within its borders.

**NEW ENGLAND STATES**.—Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

**NEW JERSEY TEA** (*Ceanothus americanus*).—When the good people of Boston dumped the mad king's tea chests into the sea, their supply of the article necessarily ran short, and as a substitute the leaves of this plant were used during the Revolution. Popular report said that it neither cheered nor inebriated, and was at best but a sorry makeshift.

**NEW LIGHT** (Cant).—New coin or new money is so designated.—**NEW LIGHTS**.—An offshoot of the Presbyterian Church in America. The cause of secession lay in disputes concerning church discipline in

connection with revivals, the Synod having, in 1801, censured some of its ministers for sharing in what were deemed disorderly modes of Christian propagandism. The *New Lights* thereupon, says the Rev. Mr. Cartright in his Autobiography, renounced the Westminster Confession of Faith and church discipline, and professed to take the New Testament for their church discipline. They established no standard of doctrine. Every one was to take the New Testament and read it, and abide by his own construction. They also adopted the mode of immersion, the water-god of all errorists.

**NEWSIEST, NEWSY**.—Reporter's English for "full of news." A *newsy* paper is one that is racy, bold and sparkling in its reports and comments on men and things, full of "the thoughts that glow and words that burn."

When Col. Forney says of his *Weekly Press* that it is the **NEWSIEST** paper in the country, he shows his familiarity with reporter's English.—*The Nation*.

**NEW SOUTH**.—Much used politically to describe the present condition of the Southern States. For the most part, wise and temperate counsels have prevailed in the attitude of the conquering North towards the conquered South, since the close of the Civil War, and the work of Reconstruction has gone on year by year with ever increasing momentum. It would perhaps be difficult to find any considerable following in the South who now lament the downfall of slavery; and though for political purposes the **BLOODY SHIRT** (*q.v.*) of past hatreds and differences is occasionally flaunted in the face of a now loyal South, yet for the most part the desire of North and South alike

is to allow the memory of the seven years' conflict to sink entirely into oblivion.

The bill of Mr. Mills is framed in hostility to American manufacturers, and in hope of placation of the South; not the New South, the South which is building furnaces and mills and cities, and developing mines, but the Old South, that sits on a fence-rail, and mourns the days when it could wallop its niggers.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, March 2, 1888.

**NEWSPAPER SENSE.**—The marvellous development of the modern newspaper calls for the display of qualities in a journalist, altogether unique of their kind and little dreamt of in the past. To be successful he must be able, industrious, earnest, and independent, interested in everything that concerns the welfare of the journal he represents, have a keen scent for news, a large capacity for analysis, capable of appreciating fine distinctions between things that differ, and power to remember names and faces. Add to all this a keen interest in persons, geniality of manner, and hosts of acquaintances and friends—all these combined go far to make a successful journalist, and their aggregate is what is intended by *newspaper sense*.

**N. G.**—A slang abbreviation for "no go," *i.e.*, of no avail; to no purpose.

Hill claims he has the thing down dead to rights, and that he will make the farmers sweat who have been asserting that his claim was N. G.—*Cincinnati Weekly Gazette*, February 22, 1888.

**NIB (Cant).**—The mouth.

**NIBBLER** (*Ctenolabrus caeruleus*).—This fish is also known as BLUE PERCH, BURGALL, CONNOR, etc. Its sobriquet of the *nibbler* is obviously derived from its tricky habits, from a fisherman's point of view.

**NICK.**—A cent piece. These coins are made of nickel, and the term has naturally been abbreviated to meet the inexorable demand for brevity in terms of popular use, and also to distinguish it from NICKEL (*q.v.*).

**NICKEL.**—A five cent piece. This must not be confounded with the foregoing, a coin of the value of one cent. Both, however, are made of the same metal.

Gentleman (to tramp)—Why do you ask for only a penny, my man? Most of you people want NICKELS and dimes?

Tramp—Yes, sir, but I'm a new hand at the business, an' I want to begin right; make it a dime, though, if you like.—*Montreal Herald*, February 21, 1888.

—**NICKEL BANK.**—A gambler's term. Nickels or five cent pieces form the unit of operations.

Pierson is a new light in the green-cloth world, havin' risen like a meteor in three years. He was a waiter in a Leadville restaurant up to 1885, when he started a NICKEL BANK of his own, and won both fame and fortune as a gambler.—*New York World*, May, 1888.

**NICKY.**—A variation of "Old Nick"—the devil.

**NICKNAMES and PSEUDONYMS.**—The following are the most notable nicknames, pseudonyms, and sobriquets of politicians, literary men, and others.

A LADY—Miss Susan Fenimore Cooper. ALTER EGO—Robt. E. Strahorn. AMY LOTHROP—Anna B. Warner. AN AMERICAN LADY—Henry Wood. ARTEMUS WARD—Chas. F. Browne. A SOUTHERNER—Seymour R. Duke. BARNWELL—Robt. Barnwell Roosevelt. BRET HARTE—Francis Bret Harte. BULL OF THE WOODS—Sumner, one of the best known characters of the Union. CAPTAIN CHATTERS—Duke of Chartres. CAPTAIN PERRY—Count of Paris. CARL BENSON—Mr. Charles Astor Bristed. CHAS. SUMMERFIELD—Theodore Foster. CHRIS. CROWFIELD—Mrs. H. Beecher Stowe. CHRISTIAN REID—Miss Fanny Fischer. CRACKERS—Early. DICK TINTO—Mr. Frank B. Goodrich. DIEDRICH KNICKERBOCKER—Washington Irving. EDMUND KIRKE—Jas.



ROBERTS GILMORE. FANNY FERN—Mrs. Jas. Parton. FANNY FORRESTER—Mrs. Adoniram Judson (*née* Emily Chudbuck, 1817-1854). FIGHTING JOE—Hooker. FRANK FORRESTER—Henry William Herbert. FRIAR ANTONIO AGAPIDA—Washington Irving. GAIL HAMILTON—Mary Abigail Dodge, of Hamilton, Mass. GRACE GREENWOOD—Mrs. Sarah Jane Lippincott (*née* Clarke). HANS BREITMANN—Chas. G. Lealand. HARRY OF THE WEST—Henry Clay. HIBERNICUS—De Witt Clinton. HOSEA BIGLOW—Jas. Russell Lowell. IAN THE—Mrs. Embury. IKE MARYEL—Mr. Donald G. Mitchell. IPENEUS—Rev. S. I. Prime. JEB—Stuart. JEEVES PIPES OF PHEVILLE—Stephen C. Massett. JONATHAN OLDSTYLE—Washington Irving. JOSH BILLINGS—A. W. Shaw. JUNIOR DOW—Eldridge G. Paige. KATE PUTNAM—Miss Kate Putnam Osgood. K. N. PEPPER (pronounced Cayenne pepper)—Mr. James M. Morris. LITTLE MAC—General McClellan. LITTLE PHIL—Sheridan. MADAME C—DE LA B.—Madame F. E. Calderon de la Barca. MAD TOM—Gen. Sherman. MAJOR JACK DOWNING—Seba Smith. MARION HARLAND—Mrs. Virginia Terhune. MARK TWAIN—Mr. Samuel Clemens. MAS. BOB—General Lee. MAX ADELER—Chas. Heber Clark. MILLER BOY OF THE SLASHES—Henry Clay. M. QUAD—C. B. Lewis. MRS. PARTINGTON—Mr. B. P. Shillaber. NED BUNTLINE—Mr. E. Z. C. Judson. NEWSMAN DANBURY—J. M. Bailey. OLD ABE OF ABE—President Lincoln. OLD BULLION—Col. Thos. H. Benton of Missouri. *See* BULLION STATE. OLD BURCHELL—Elihu Burritt. OLD DAD—General Price. OLD DRIVER—The Devil. OLD HUTCH—Hutchinson of Chicago. By working a wheat deal he made 2,000,000 dols. OLD JOE—Johnston. OLD ROUGH-AND-READY—Major-General Zachary Taylor. OLD SCRATCH—The Devil. OLD SPLIT-FOOT—The Devil. OLD WHITEY—The name of Gen. Taylor's horse during the war with Mexico. OLD ZACH—Major-General Zachary Taylor. OLIVER OPTIC—Mr. W. T. Adams. ORPHEUS C. KERR (pronounced Office Seeker)—Mr. R. H. Newalls. PATCHED BREECHES—William L. Marcy of New York. PATHFINDER—Gen. John C. Fremont. PENHOLDER—Edwd. Eggleston. PETROLEUM V. NASBY—D. R. Locke. PORTE CRAYON—D. H. Strother. PETER PARLEY—Mr. Samuel G. Goodrich (1793-1860). Q. K. PHILANDER DOESTICKS—Mortimer Thompson. SAM SLICK—Hon. T. C. Halliburton. SEVEN-MULE BARNUM—Mr. Barnum of Connecticut. SPARROWGRASS—Mr. F. S. Cozens. STONEWALL—Gen. Jackson. TALVJ—Mrs. (Theresa Albertine Louisa von Jacob) Robinson. THE BEEHUNTER—Col. J. B. Thorpe. THE FLATBOATMAN—President Lincoln. THE LEARNED BLACKSMITH—Elihu Burritt. THE RAIL-SPLITTER—President Lincoln. THE RANGER—Capt. Flack. THE WAR-HORSE—Longstreet.

TIMOTHY TITCOMBE—Dr. J. G. Holland. U. DONOUGH OUTIS (pronounced 'You don't know who 'tis)—Mr. Richard Grant White. UNCLE REMUS—Joe Chandler Harris. WALTER CLERK BARRETT—J. A. Scoville. WM. PENN—Jeremiah Everts. YOUNG NAPOLEON—General McClellan.

—NICKNAMES OF CITIES.—*See* CITY *et passim*. —NICKNAMES OF CITIZENS OF STATES.—*See* NAMES.—NICKNAMES OF STATES.—*Passim*.

NICOTIANA. — A tobacco-producing district.

NICOTIAN LEAF.—Tobacco.

NIFTY is an adjective synonymous with excellence of style and appearance; up to the mark.

Obs'quies is good. Yes, that's it: that's our little game. We are going to get the thing up regardless you know. He was always NIFTY himself, and so you bet his funeral ain't going to be no slouch—solid silver door-plate on his coffin, six plumes on the hearse, and a nigger on the box in a biled shirt and a plug hat—How's that for high?—*Mark Twain's The Innocents at Home*, p. 20.

NIGGER.—By far the most popular appellation for a negro.—NIGGER BABIES.—An ironically facetious name given by General Hardee, of the Confederate Army, to the huge projectiles hurled into Charleston during its siege by General Gilmore. For those who read between the lines there will be found a wealth of suggestion in the curious application of this term to monster cannon balls; and not less wanting in sarcastic allusion was the SWAMP ANGEL, as was called the gun from which these things were driven.—NIGGER HEAD.—(1) A tuft of grass or sedge appearing above the waters of a swamp. From a fancied resemblance to a negro's woolly head.—(2) A contemptuous term applied to those Northerners who were inclined to violent measures in dealing with

the slavery question.—**NIGGER-HEAD STONE**.—A stone abounding in the neighborhood of Baltimore and much used for metalling roads. Like a *nigger's head*, it is hard, report avowing that the stone is soonest broken; it is also a moot point as to which is heaviest; and to do the black man justice, he would probably not care to give the stone a single point as regards color.—**NIGGERISM**.—A word, habit, custom, etc., peculiar to negroes.—**NIGGER LUCK**.—To use another slang expression which best interprets the meaning "awfully good luck." The allusion is doubtless to the happy-go-lucky manner in which the negro takes life; generally speaking, if good fortune comes to him, it is without the slightest effort on his part.

Sam Hunker, the notorious gambler and claim-jumper, heard the rumor with avaricious ears.

'I am cussed,' he howled to a crowd of his own stripe, 'if any darned rebel can have such **NIGGER LUCK** and enjoy it while I live. You can bet I'll soon settle that.'

'The syndicate's expert comes up from Denver to-morrow, Sam,' said one of his friends.—*The Critic*, April 14, 1888.

—**NIGGER NIGHT**.—A New England term applied by young white people to Saturday night courting.

—**TO NIGGER-OUT LAND**.—To exhaust land by improvident working; to take everything out of it that can be got, and to return nothing in the shape of manure or other fertilising agents. This method was often disastrously pursued in the South, and negroes being the labor employed, the term is probably as much an allusion to this practice as from its being a marked characteristic of purely negro tillage.—**NIGGER WORSHIPPER**.—An opprobrious term applied to the anti-slavery party.

—**NIGGERY**.—Like a *nigger*; pertaining to a *nigger* or negro.

**NIGHT**.—See **AFTER-NIGHT**.

**NIGHT-KEY**.—This is the American equivalent for a latch-key.

'I am sitting up,' she explained, 'because there are still four or five of my young men out, and as I do not give **NIGHT-KEYS** to anyone but the doctor, I have to sit up or ask some of my hard-working girls to do so. It is dreary waiting sometimes, but on the whole they are considerate, and I don't complain.'—*Pittsburg Dispatch*, July 29, 1888.

**NIMENOG** (Cant).—A heedless soft-pated fellow.

**NIMSHI**.—A booby; a nincompoop; a conceited fellow. A Connecticut colloquialism.

**NINE BARK** (*Spiraea opulifolia*).—This dwarf-growing shrub derives its popular name from its old bark peeling off readily; "nine," however, bearing no actual relation to the number of layers.

**NINE KILLER**.—The **BUTCHER BIRD** (*q.v.*).

**NIP AND TUCK**.—**TO GO NIP AND TUCK** is neck and neck; on an equality; just able to hold one's own.

From this time on Old Prob and the ground-hog will have it **NIP AND TUCK**, with the chances in favor of the hog.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, February 4th, 1888.

'Yes, sir. During my sojourn here in these mountain wilds alone I have had it **NIP AND TUCK** with the wolves and mountain lions.'—*Cincinnati Enquirer*, 1888.

**NIPPENT**.—Impudent; impertinent.

**NIPPER**.—A dram; a small quantity of liquor.—**NIPPERS**.—Handcuffs.—(Cant).—A burglar's instrument by which it is possible to turn an inside key on the outside of a door. These forceps are mainly used by hotel thieves, from whom they also receive the name of

AMERICAN TWEEZERS (*q.v.*). —  
NIPPERKIN.—A tumbler.

**NIQUE (Cant).**—Contemptuous indifference.

**NO ACCOUNT.**—*See* ACCOUNT.

**NOCAKE.**—Parched Indian meal. An Indian word, probably never heard now, but once familiar in New England.

**NOCKY BOY (Cant).**—A simpleton.

**NOGGIN.**—A small quantity of drink; an Old English survival.

**NOHOW.**—NOHOW YOU CAN FIX IT.—A frequently heard negative colloquialism, and used, *mutatis mutandis*, in the same way as ANYHOW YOU CAN FIX IT (*see* ANYHOW).

**NO MAN'S LAND.**—*No Man's Land* is the strip lying between Colorado and Kansas on the North, and Texas on the South. It was ceded by Texas to the United States, and has been classed geographically with Indian Territory for convenience. It extends from the rooth to the 103rd meridian, and is about seventy-five miles in width. The following account has been given of its condition and settlement:—

For forty years or more the country has been without a name and without law. Even the land laws of the United States do not cover its nearly 4,000,000 fertile acres. Its well-watered valleys have been a vast herding ground. Those who are now living there enjoy squatter sovereignty to the fullest extent. In fixing the boundaries of States during special territorial legislation, this strip of land, containing 5,761 square miles, was left out entirely, and from that day has been absolutely without law. It is one of the most fertile spots in the United States, but for the reason that the land and other laws of the nation do not apply to it, settlers have been chary about going on to it. Two

years ago (1886) some adventurous persons went in and took up lands. They are simply squatters. They have no title whatever to the lands and can get none. The population has grown to 10,000, who live without law or lawyers. Several small villages have grown up. In March, 1887, a provisional government was established, and the name of Cimarron, after its principal river, was given to the territory. A bill for the organization of this land into a territory had been brought up at the second session of the forty-ninth congress, but failed. Soon after the opening of the fiftieth congress, a bill for its organization under the name of Cimarron was brought, and was referred to the committee on territories. On March 29, 1888, a bill called the Plumb Bill extending the boundaries of the State of Kansas so as to include NO MAN'S LAND passed the Senate. A measure had previously passed that body attaching NO MAN'S LAND to Kansas for judicial and land office purposes, and the present bill completes the work of the former by making the territory in question a portion of the Sunflower State. Should the Plumb Bill be approved by Congress it would then devolve upon the State of Kansas to assent to its provisions by an act of the State Legislature within two years from the date of its passage.

**NOMENCLATURE.**—*See* CITY.—BROOKLYN and NICKNAMES.

**NOMOLOGY.**—A branch of philosophy, descriptive of, and pertaining to laws. The ordinary word is nomography. Also NOMOLOGICAL.

**NONE OF MY FUNERAL.**—*See* FUNERAL.

**NOODLES, NOODLEJEES.**—A preparation of dough and eggs, very similar to vermicelli.—NOODLE SOUP is soup made of this preparation.

**NOONING TIME.**—Noon or noontide. This interval, for rest and refreshment, is also simply called *nooning*.

**NOOSED (Cant).**—When people get married they are said to be *noosed*. Sometimes literally true.

**NOPAL.**—The prickly pear.



**NOPE.**—A negative colloquialism, formed by pronouncing the word "no," and then pursing or closing the lips to emphasize the spoken word.

'Willie,' said the good pastor, who was taking dinner with the family, 'I suppose you will be a literary man, like your father, when you grow up.'

'NOPE,' said the little boy addressed, as he looked at the somewhat meagre array of delicacies on the table with lofty scorn, 'literary nuthin'! I'm goin' to be a 10,000 dollar cook!'—*Chicago Tribune*, 1888.

—(Cant).—A blow.

**NORTH.**—The Northern and formerly the anti-slavery States.—**NORTHERNER.**—A citizen of the Northern States.—**NORTHERN MUD SILL.**—See MUD SILL.

**NORTH AMERICANS.**—A political party, otherwise known as THE AMERICAN PARTY.—See AMERICAN.

**NORTHER.**—A strongcold north wind, which blows across the prairies of the West. Extremely trying to both man and beast.

Until the past year or so a cold snap in Texas was called a **NORTHER**, and to most people the term blizzard meant a wind that was utterly too cold for anything to live in this side of Dakota. But the word **NORTHER** seems now to be obsolescent in its former sense. All the cold snaps of the present winter have been spoken of as blizzards, and the newspapers have also side-tracked the word **NORTHER**. These winds were just as cold when they were called **NORTHERS** as they have been since they have come to answer to the name of blizzards. They blow where they list, and as hard and as cold as they list, regardless of what they may be called.—*Demison News*, 1883.

The Texas **NORTHER** is only the frayed fringes of the blizzard king's mantle as he whirls past.—*New York Sun*, 1888.

Since the storm of January 12, the press of the East has been united in exaggerating the reports of the day's storm here, seemingly forgetful that snow ever fell or wind ever blew outside the borders of Dakota; if there

is a **NORTHER** in Texas it is reported as a Dakota blizzard, with the mercury 40 degrees below zero.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, February 25, 1888.

**NORTHERN NECK.**—That district of Virginia which lies between the Potomac and Rappahannock rivers.—See NECK.

**NORTH-WESTERN STATES.**—Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Nebraska.

**NO-SEE-UMS** (*Simulium nocivum*).—A midge or sand-fly.

**NOTCH.**—A gorge or narrow passage through mountains. Also called COVE and GAP.

**NOTE.**—In New York a *note* is a *bon mot*.—(Cant).—A singer.

**NOTE SHAVER.**—See BANK-SHAVING.

**NOTICE.**—An announcement of a CLAIM (*q.v.*) being taken up.

We liked the appearance of the place, and so we claimed some three hundred acres of it and stuck our NOTICES on a tree. It was yellow pine timber land—a dense forest of trees a hundred feet high, and from one to five feet through at the butt.—*Mark Twain's Roughing It*.

**NOTION.**—I HAVE A NOTION TO, is equivalent to "I should like."—**NOTIONS.**—Small wares of all kinds. By Yankee notions in England are understood little nicknacks, small labor-saving contrivances, etc. The word *notions* is also used in the sense of ideas; it is an old one, but has been much extended in use.

Gen.—And what kind of characters are the Count and Countess?

Doolittle.—Why, I han't been here such a

despud while as to have larnt myself much about the matter. But, by hearsay, they are a topping sort of people, and pretty much like the Boston folks, full of notions. At times he is obstropulous. He may be a straight-going critter, farzino, manwards; but in his dealings with t'other sex, he is a little twistical.—*D. Humphreys' Yankee in England.*

Thursday, January 26, regular auction sale of dry goods, furnishing goods, notions, hats and caps, etc. Special offering of a large line of hosiery, laces, embroideries, pocket-books, and purses. Also 100 Cloaks and Newmarkets to close an account. Sale at 9.30 a.m. O. J. Lewis and Co.—*Advertisement in St. Louis Globe Democrat*, January 21, 1888.

—NOTIONAL.—Fanciful or whimsical. A New England term, which, in the West, takes the form of NOTIONATE.

**NOT MUCH** 1.—Not at all. A common colloquialism. — *See* example in quotation following to **FLIP**.

**NOUSE-BOX** (Cant).—The head. Evidently from the Greek—perception or comprehension.

**NOVELETIC**.—In a manner peculiar to novels.

Before the hour for parting had come J. Angelo had made up his mind that the time for him to speak had arrived. It is useless to go into the details of the proposal. It was done in the usual NOVELETIC way.—*Detroit Free Press*, 1888.

**NO YOU DON'T!**—An exclamation of dissent frequently heard in the North.

**NUB**.—The nub of a story, *i.e.*, the gist of it.

French newspapers have a strange fashion of telling a perfectly straight story till you get to the nub of it, and then a word drops in that no man can translate, and that story is ruined.—*Mark Twain's Innocent's Abroad.*

—NUB (Cant).—The neck. —  
TO BE NUBBED.—To be hanged.

**NUBBINS**.—Imperfectly formed ears of Indian corn. Thought to be a corruption of "nuffin," a negro pronunciation of "nothing."

Corn will grow as large as a man's finger, and many stalks will bear a NUBBIN. It is proposed as an improvement on the above that a bushel of corn, etc.—*Journal of Agriculture*, 1888.

**NUBIBUS**.—In the clouds. A literal translation of the Latin *nubibus*.

**NUG** (Cant).—Dear, *e.g.*, "my nug"; my dear.

**'NUITY**.—A word, says De Vere, believed by some writers to be derived from *annuity*, and by others to be an absurd form of "knew." Nordhoff explains it as meaning what Americans call go-aheadativeness—a barbarous word, which nobody could coin, who did not find it easier to coin money than words.

**NULL, TO** (Cant).—To flog.

**NULLIFICATION**.—A term which arose in connection with a desire on the part of South Carolina to enter into Free Trade relations with England and France, especially in reference to cotton goods. This of course was utterly opposed to the high protective policy of the rest of the Union, and in spite of the South Carolinian Legislature passing a measure to that effect, President Jackson enforced the authority of Congress and the Act was subsequently repealed. The whole question was only another phase of the doctrine of STATES' RIGHTS (*q.v.*). —**NULLIFIER**.—One who favors the theory that the rights of a State are paramount to those of the Union.

**NUMS** (Cant).—Unreal ; sham.

**NURLY**.—A corruption of "gnarly," signifying cross-grained and ill-tempered.

**NUSH** (Cant).—The mouth ; probably a corruption of "hush."

**NUT-CAKE**. — In New England a dough-nut.

**NUT-CRACKER**.—A severe blow on the head. In English pugilistic slang "nut" signifies the head.

**NUTMEG STATE**.—The State of Connecticut. A creation of Sam Slick's (Judge Halliburton).

The Empire State is your New York ;  
I grant it hard to mate her ;  
Yet still give me the NUTMEG STATE,  
Where shall we find a greater ?

—*Allin Yankee Ballads.*







**AK** (Cant).—An adjective signifying strong; rich; of good reputation. This is obviously drawn from the notable qualities of the tree. — **OAK**

**BARRENS.**—Scrubby oak brush, the stunted growth of which indicates an extreme poverty of soil. Usually, however, **BARRENS** (*q.v.*) are destitute of even a vestige of timber.—**OAK OPENINGS.**—Thinly wooded forest glades, of park-like appearance, frequently met with in the North-west. The soil is of better quality than in the case with oak barrens, but yet the timber attains no great size.

After traversing a broad marsh, however, where my horse seemed loath to venture, I struck a **BURT-OAK OPENING**, and soon found my way by the blazed trees back to the mail trail.—*Hoffman's Winter in the West.*

—**OAK TOWEL** (Cant).—a stout oaken stick. There is an allusion here to "wiping" or "dressing one down."

**OATH.**—**TO TAKE AN OATH.**—There is nothing alarming about this operation. King Coles and other thirsty old souls are ever ready to oblige—in short *to take an oath* with one, means in plain English, to take a drink.

**OATS.**—**TO FEEL ONE'S OATS.**—A conceited, bumptious man is said *to feel his oats* when putting himself en

*evidence.* The expression is also applied to any display of self-importance, and is obviously a simile derived from the stable. Horses fed mainly on corn exhibit far more spirit and mettle than would otherwise be the case.

The Kentuckians have certainly brought Little Falls to the front during the past year, and Little Falls **FEELS HER OATS**, and will undoubtedly expand under her new name of Falls City.—*St. Paul and Minneapolis Pioneer*, July 22, 1888.

**OBEAH OR OBI.**—A secret species of witchcraft practised by the negroes in the West Indies.

**OBITUARIST.**—A grandiloquent name for a writer of epitaphs and similar notices for the press.

**OBLIGED TO BE**, for "must be." A modern vulgarism applied to things, *e.g.*, Judge Allen's house is *obliged to be* two or three miles from the railway station.

**OBLIGATION.**—An archaic form for "obligation," which still survives in some localities.

**OBSCURE, OBSCUTELY.**—Pertaining to indirect action, motion, or practice; or to obliqueness of moral vision. Thus, one whose ways are crooked, is said to be *obscure* or to act *obscutely*. Both forms are factitious.

**OBSCULESCENT.**—Obsolete.

The word norther seems now to be OBSO-  
LESCENT in its former sense.—*Denison News*,  
1888.

**OBSTREP, To.**—A corrupt form for  
"to be obstreperous."

**OBSTROPULOUS.**—This, like the pre-  
ceding, is a vulgar variant of  
"obstreperous." It is most common  
in New England.

**OBTUSITY.**—A New England variant  
of obtuseness.

**OCCASION OF 'CASION, To.**—A Mary-  
land term, signifying to go round  
seeking and making application for  
employment.

**OCCUPY (Cant).**—To wear.

**OCCUPYING CLAIMANT.**—A settler who  
bases his title to land upon the fact  
of occupation.

**OCCURRINGS.**—An absurd variant for  
occurrences or incidents. A simi-  
larly needless equivalent is HAP-  
PENINGS (*q.v.*).

**OCELOT.**—The *ocelotl* of Mexico;  
also called the TIGER CAT. This  
animal is of the feline species,  
is carnivorous, and beautifully  
marked. Though mainly found in  
South America, its range extends as  
far north as Texas.

**OCHIVES (Cant).**—A singular term for  
bone-handled knives.

**OCTOROON.**—The offspring of white  
and quadroon parents, the pro-  
portion being one-eighth black.  
Another name is MESTEE (*q.v.*).

**OFFAL.**—This term is far more collo-  
quial in Western America than in  
England. It is applied to the same

parts of the carcasses of animals;  
but whereas in England no one  
would think of speaking of calf's  
heart, pig's fry, sheep's kidneys,  
etc., as dishes of *offal*, in the States  
such phraseology is not at all un-  
usual.

**OFFEN.**—For "off from." An il-  
literacy.

**OFFICE-HOLDER.**—Only so far as this  
is frequently used as a term of  
reproach can it be classed as an  
Americanism. It invariably signi-  
fies a government official, and  
OFFICE-HOLDING is the holding  
of an office under government.  
The system under which, at every  
change of President, *office-holders*  
vacate their posts, naturally leads  
to keen competition for the sweets  
of office. Consequently OFFICE-  
HUNTING is quite a business with  
the thousand-and-one "hangers-  
on" to the skirts of political  
parties; these are sarcastically  
termed OFFICE-HUNTERS.

**OFF-OX.**—Lowell, in his introduction  
to the second series of the *Biglow*  
*Papers*, gives this as an unmanage-  
able, cross-grained fellow.

**OFFSET.**—(1) In comparison of quanti-  
ties *offset* is used in America as  
equivalent to the English "set-off."  
For example, an item on the debit  
side of an account may, when equal  
in value, be an *offset* to another on  
the credit side. *Offset* in English  
dictionaries is generally confined to  
the vegetable kingdom in the sense  
of a shoot, sprout, or bulb from  
parent plant.—(2) Formerly collo-  
quial in New England for a  
terrace, *i.e.*, structures, walks, and  
plantations, laid out on the side of  
a hill or on rising ground.—To  
OFFSET.—To set or compare one  
sum or quantity against or with  
another.

**OIL.**—To STRIKE OIL, or more usually TO STRIKE ILE.—To meet with a stroke of good luck; to be successful. This simile is derived from the immense wealth which accrued from the discovery of mineral oil, first in Pennsylvania, and subsequently in other parts of the Union.—**OILDOM.** The oil-producing districts of Pennsylvania, the principal centre of this industry.—**OIL NUT** (*Juglans cinerea*).—Also called BUTTER NUT, both names being allusive to its oily nature.—**OIL OF BARLEY** (Cant).—A facetious term given to strong beer.

**OJO.**—A Spanish term for an eye (pronounced *o-ho*), but which on the plains in the States formerly under Spanish rule, is idiomatically employed as a designation for a spring of water.

**O. K.**—All right; all correct. Authorities differ as to the precise origin of this expression. The initials *O. K.*, are supposed to stand for "all correct." The most likely derivation seems that told by De Vere, to the effect that General Jackson, better known in American history as Old Hickory, was not much at home in the art of spelling, and that he employed the letters *O. K.* as an endorsement of applications for office and other papers, intending them to stand for "all (or) correct (korrekt)."

His express messenger reported himself after his night ride, assured Allen that all was *o. k.*, and received his dollar for delivering the message.—*Sam Slick's Americans at Home*.

The Canadian customs-house is required to stamp an American vessel's paper *O. K.*, and there is an end of the matter.—*Troy Daily Times*, February 20, 1883.

A gentleman with a fine face, iron-gray hair, pleasant manners, and everything apparently *o. k.*, walked into Texas Charley's shooting gallery on Bleeker-street yesterday, and, after practising at a target for awhile,

turned his revolver on himself and blew out such gray matter as the Lord had endowed him with.—*Boston Weekly Globe*, February 29, 1883.

—The initials are also used as a verb. To *o. k.*; to endorse with the sign *O. K.*, to signify that all is right.

**SYNTAX.**—The expression, Please *O. K.* and hurry return of my account, is grammatically correct. The noun account is governed by the preposition of, and is also the object of the active transitive verb *O. K.*—*Answer to Correspondent in Missouri Republican*, January 25, 1883.

**OKRA** (*Hibiscus esculentus*).—The pods of this plant are largely used in gumbo-soup.—*See GUMBO*.

**OLD.**—It seems somewhat of an anachronism to apply the epithet *old* to men and things connected with the New World, but although Americans, to their undoubted advantage, have no such hold upon the past as have the peoples of the Old World, more than three hundred years have elapsed since the first settlement of a permanent character was made within the limits of the Union (Florida, 1565); therefore, those who lay stress on such matters may, comparatively speaking, lay reasonable claim to a kind of bastard antiquity. Hence, such terms as

—**OLD COLONY.**—This is perhaps the oldest historical name of locality yet surviving in the United States. It is the name of the first Plymouth settlement situated in what, together with the colony of Massachusetts Bay, afterwards formed the State of Massachusetts.—**OLD COON.**—A sharp, shrewd man, often used politically, the expression deriving its significance from the *savoir faire*, which usually comes with years, and the reputation of the raccoon, or coon, as a wily, cunning animal.



—OLD COUNTRY.—In the first place, this term was applied solely to England, but since the incursion of large numbers of the surplus population of other European countries into the United States, the meaning has been enlarged to include the Old World generally. It is worthy of mention that the phrase is now the common property of all English colonists who, having found it convenient and expressive, usually speak thus of the land of their birth.—Hence also OLD COUNTRYMEN which, however, has as yet received no such extension of meaning, it being confined entirely to natives of the British Isles, and never applied to persons on the Continent of Europe.—OLDER-MOST.—A factitious superlative, often heard in the West for oldest, the most advanced in years.

—OLD DOMINION, or sometimes ANCIENT DOMINION.—The State of Virginia. A title bestowed by Charles II. as a reward for the loyalty of her citizens to the Stuart dynasty during the Commonwealth. Distance, no doubt, lent enchantment to the scene of the struggle for liberty in the Old Country, and led these early colonists to view in a lenient manner, the ever-recurring claim of the right divine of kings to govern wrong.

The colonists on the James River refused to recognize Cromwell and the Protectorate, and strenuously maintained their allegiance to Charles II. who was then in exile on the Continent. They even wrote to him, through their governor, Sir William Berkeley, assuring him of their loyalty, and expressing the most earnest wishes for his health, happiness, and restoration to the throne. They also invited the king, who was then at Breda, in Holland, poor in purse and apparently poorer in prospects, to emigrate to Virginia. Cromwell sent a fleet to bring them into submission, and, as Bancroft states it, 'they refused to surrender to force, but yielded by a mutual deed and voluntary compact.' As soon, however, as news was received of Cromwell's death, Charles II. was solemnly proclaimed King of Great Britain, Ireland, and Virginia, and all writs and processes were issued in

his name, so that he was virtually King of Virginia, in fact, before he had begun to reign at home, *de jure*. For once the Stuart-king was not ungrateful; he restored the governor, deposed by Cromwell's order, to his place, commanded the arms of Virginia to be quartered with those of Great Britain on the royal escutcheon as they appear on coins struck as late as 1773 by order of George III., and authorised—at least by tacit consent—the use of the words OLD DOMINION.

—OLD DRIVER.—The Devil.

—OLD HOSS.—See HORSE.—

OLD HUNKER.—See HUNK.—OLD LINE STATE.—Maryland. So called, says De Vere, from the *Old-Line* regiments which she contributed to the Continental Army in the War of the Revolution—the only State that had regular troops of "the line."—OLD MAN.—The skipper of American merchant ships. Bartlett erroneously writes this down as an Americanism, when used for "father." Employed in this sense, *old man* is as much the heritage of Young England as of Young America. There is, however, something distinctively American in the usage prevalent in the South and West, where, in speaking of the elder of two men of the same name, say Brown, one would be called *old man* Brown, instead of "old Mr. Brown," as is customary in England. Bartlett also makes himself indirectly responsible for the statement that Yankees in some parts of New England, carry their respect for age in petticoats to such an extent as to speak of an old Mrs. Brown as OLD WOMAN BROWN.—OLD MAN'S BEARD.—A mossy parasite of trees in Louisiana and Texas. Otherwise called NEW ORLEANS MOSS (*q.v.*).—OLD NORTH STATE.—North Carolina.—OLD PLANTERS.—The oldest and most distinguished families among the early settlers in New England were so called.—OLD POD.—An old man.—OLD ROGER

(Cant).—The Devil.—OLD PROBABILITIES.—A sarcastic title for the superintendent of the United States weather bureau, obviously from the problematical forecasts issued daily from the office in question.

When you come to think of the sort of weather we have had in New York upon the occasions of great popular political turnouts, the big parades and street pageants of recent years, you will find that as a rule OLD PROBABILITIES has been rather kindly disposed to both parties, and has vouchsafed tolerable marching weather, and that when he has turned loose the floods on enthusiastic paraders, Republicans and Democrats have had to meet about equal consequences in the way of wet feet and mustard plasters.—*New York Herald*, November 4, 1888.

—OLD RED EYE.—Whiskey. "Red eyes it is, sir," with many of its devotees.—OLD RYE.—This is a whiskey distilled from rye.—OLD SCRATCH.—The Devil.—OLD SLEDGE.—In the South and West the card game of All Fours is so called.—OLD SOLDIERS.—The refuse of tobacco and ends of cigars collected off the public streets.—OLD SOUTH.—The converse of the New South (*q.v.*); the South before the war, and previous to the enfranchisement of the negro.

Grenada is a town where the stranger feels at home. The people grasp him by the hand and give him a hearty welcome. They have enough of the hospitality and friendliness of the OLD SOUTH to make their town a haven of rest to the visitor, and enough of the energy and go-aheaditiveness of the new South to make it one of the liveliest and most progressive places in all Mississippi.—*Mississippi Valley Lumberman*, May, 1888.

—OLD SPLIT-FOOT.—The Devil.

They go it like an Ericsson's ten-hoss-power coleric ingine,  
An make OLE SPLIT-FOOT winch an' squirm,  
for all he's used to singin';  
Hawkins's whetstone ain't a pinch o' primin'  
to the innards  
To hearin' on 'em put free grace t' a lot o'  
tough old sinhard's!

—*Biglow Papers*.

—OLD SQUAW.—A New England name for the brown duck known to science as *Harelda glacialis*. Also called OLD-WIFE, both of which names are also given in South Carolina to a species of sea-gull.

—OLD TOAST (Cant).—The Devil. Sometimes OLD TOASTER. The derivation is obvious.—OLD WHALE.—A jocose name for a Jack Tar.

OLEOMARGARINE.—A substitute for butter. Both name and product are of American origin.

OLIVER SKULL (Cant).—The "It" of Max O'Rell.

OLLI COMPOLLI (Cant).—The leader of a gang of thieves, or a very smart cracksman.

OLYCOOK OR OLYCOEK.—This word, from the Dutch, literally signifies oil-cake. A comestible which is now more generally known as DOUGH-NUT (*q.v.*).

OMNIBUS BILL.—The name of a popular and comprehensive measure presented to Congress in the current year, which is explained by the following quotation:—

Representative Springer, in behalf of the majority of the committee on territories, has prepared a report which he will present to the House, recommending the passage of what is known as the OMNIBUS BILL, to enable the people of Dakota, Montana, Washington territory, and New Mexico to form State Governments and to be admitted into the Union on an equality with the other States. The report, after explaining the provisions of the Bill, among which, it says, is a clause allowing the people to decide by vote on propositions to change the names of their respective territories, gives a statement of the population and resources of each of the proposed States.—*Missouri Republican*, March 5th, 1888.

ON.—This preposition, in a large measure, takes the place of "in."

Instead of living in such and such a street, or being in it, in the sense of passing through it, an American would speak of living *on* or being *on* the thoroughfare in question.

The murder was done at about seven o'clock, *on* the street, not more than twenty feet from the store of Henry Williamson.—*Pinkerton's Mollie Maguires*.

Similarly Brother Jonathan comes to Europe *on* a steamer instead of "in" it, and travels *on* the cars instead of in the train. He also writes *on* the newspapers and one divine actually prayed to "Our Father which art *on* Heaven," etc. —TO BE *ON* A THING.—Here *on* is used in the sense of "about." Sometimes also to be ready for a fight or brawl.

'Pard, he was on it! He was *on* it bigger than an Injun!'

'On it! On what?'

'On the shoot. On the shoulder. On the fight, you understand.'—*Mark Twain's The Innocents at Home*.

—ON *END*.—Or more commonly *ON EEND*. When a person is *on eend*, he is filled with anger and astonishment; probably a corruption of the old saying "to have," or "to make one's hair stand on end."—ON *HAND*.—This phrase applied to objects is of course commonly colloquial in England; but, in America, the expression is extended to persons in a very strange fashion.

A broker from Wall-street was *ON HAND*, and tried to pray, but he broke down halfway in the Lord's Prayer, and there seemed to be no one able to assist him.—*New York Express*.

—ON *HERD*. OFF *HERD*.—Cow-boys' terms for being on or off duty. The various reliefs during the day and night speak of being *on herd* and *off herd*, very much as if they were performing military duty. —ON THE *COAST*. —See

*COAST*. —ON *TIME*. —A train arrives *on time* when punctual.

'Can you tell me if the 7.30 express from the city is *ON TIME*?' he asked of a uniform official.

'Five minutes late, sir,' was the prompt answer.—*The American*, August 29, 1888.

As he passed, he called out:

For God's sake, boys! thar's a-gwine ter be a collision three mile south ef thirteen's *ON TIME*.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

—TO BE *ON* TO *ONE* is to be equal to dealing with a person so that he may gain no unfair advantage; to be able to give blow for blow; to return "tit for tat."

Where a man is a wife poisoner it is not right to have him married to an innocent woman who does not suspect any harm. He ought to have for his wife a woman who is *ON TO HIM*, and who can meet his poison advances with a kerosene bath. It would be interesting to watch such a couple. If he came around her with taffy or gum drops and sweet words, she would know in a minute they were loaded, and she would say, 'No, darling I do not care for candy. Eat them yourself.'—*New York Mercury*, July 21, 1888.

—ON *YESTERDAY*.—A turgescient form, but one which in spite of its absolute illiteracy is frequently met with. For example, "I spoke concerning the measure *on yesterday*," "I travelled to hum *on yesterday*," etc.

*ONCET*.—AT *ONCET*.—See *ONST*.

*ONE BERRY*.—A Connecticut term for the Indian turnip, which is also known in popular parlance as "Jack-in-the-Pulpit."—See *JACK*.

*ONE-EYED SCRIBE*.—A Texan term for a revolver. Its argument is always persuasive, and sometimes unanswerable.—See *MEAT IN THE POT*.

*ONE-GOAT*.—A variant of *ONE-HORSE* (*q.v.*) as applied adjectively. In *one-goat*, however, a spice of sug-



gestive meaning is apparent quite absent from ONE-HORSE. Compare with meaning of "goatish."

Of course, Morocco is a small place. We could live very comfortably if it were wiped off the map of the world. But while we have 60,000,000 of people, and are amply able to care for ourselves, it seems a shame to let a petty ONE-GOAT power kingdom insult our citizens. If we had a good navy, ready at our call, and should anchor a few big ships off Tangier, the measure, we think, would have a beneficial result.—*Boston Weekly Globe*, March 23, 1888.

**ONE-HORSE.**—A *one-horse* affair of any kind, whether it be a town, man, church, or entertainment, is strikingly mean or insignificant in character. The phrase is a true Americanism.—*See* HORSE.

Phelps was one of these little ONE-HORSE plantations, and they all look alike. A rail fence round a two-acre yard; a stile made out of logs sawed off and up-ended, in steps, like barrels of a different length, to climb over the fence with, and for the women to stand on when they are going to jump on to a horse; some sickly grass patches in the big yard, but mostly it was bare and smooth, like an old hat with the nap rubbed off; big double log-house for the white folks—hewed logs, with the chinks stopped up with mud or mortar, and these mud stripes been white-washed some time or another; round-log kitchen, with a big, broad, open but roofed passage joining it to the house; log smoke-house back of the kitchen; three little log nigger-cabins in a row t'other side the smoke-house; one little hut all by itself away down against the back fence, and some outbuildings down a piece the other side; ash-hopper and big kettle to bile soap in by the little hut; bench by the kitchen door, with bucket of water and a gourd; hound asleep there in the sun; more hounds asleep round about; about three shade-trees away off in a corner; some currant bushes and gooseberry bushes in one place by the fence; outside of the fence a garden and a water-melon patch; then the cotton-fields begins; and after the fields the woods.—*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, p. 328.

The *Bell* was a measly-looking little ONE-HORSE country paper, patent insides and dead ads. outside. The village was so small that it was impossible to scare up a column of local news a week. The editor spaced out by writing imaginary sketches of town and county happenings, and the news eventually reached his little place from the

outside world that he was a genius.—*Burlington Free Press*, January 27, 1888.

**ONERY.**—*See* ORNERY.

**ONE WHILE.**—A long-time.

**ONHITCH, TO.**—A New Englander's synonym for drawing the trigger of a gun; to fire.

So he ONHITCHED—Jerusalem! the middle of next year  
Was right next door compared to where he kicked the critter to.

—*J. R. Lowell's Biglow Papers*.

Compare with the Spanish *disparar*.

**ON-PLUSH.**—A Southern corruption of "nonplus."

**ONST.**—**AT ONST.**—At once; immediately. J. Russell Lowell thinks it is not a corruption, but an erratic and obsolete superlative "at onst." *Twyst* for "twice" is formed on the same model. *Onst* is sometimes spelt *onct* or *oncet*, and both forms are commonly colloquial throughout the Union.

**ONTO.**—A form which, obsolete in England, is still retained in the States. It bears the same relation to *on* as "into" does to "in."

**OODLES.**—A Tennessee expression, signifying abundance.

**OPAH** (*Lampris guttatus*).—A Southern name for the KING-FISH, or what is known in New Jersey as the *HAKE*.

**OPENING.**—Explained by quotation.  
—*See* OAK-OPENINGS.

The trees, with very few exceptions, were what is called the burr-oak, a small variety of a very extensive genus; and the spaces between them, always irregular and often of

singular beauty, have obtained the name of OPENINGS.—*Cooper's The Oak Openings.*

**OPERATE, To.**—To manage; to work; to carry out; to finesse, etc., etc. A verb of all work. A broker *operates* his stocks and shares, a lawyer his clients' interests, and for other examples, see quotations.

For years young men have been riding about on bicycles, never dreaming that the little vehicle illustrates a principle which might be OPERATED on a very much larger scale. The speed at which a bicycle can be driven by muscle is twenty-four miles an hour. It occurred some fifteen years ago to Mr. E. Moody Boynton, that if the principle could be applied to the railroad system, far greater speed and safety could be attained.—*Savannah Morning News*, 1888.

Mark Simonton, the well-known pool-seller, was indicted yesterday in Covington. Mr. Simonton has his head-quarters in that city. Yesterday the Grand Jury arose, and among the many indictments found, was one against him. He is charged with nuisance, consisting in OPERATING a pool-room on Second-street, in Covington. At the room, it is claimed, idle and evil-disposed persons congregate to watch the result of the races.—*Cincinnati Enquirer*, 1888.

**OPINUATED.**—Conceited, or opinionated. Sometimes, among negroes especially, it is synonymous with obstinate and tricky, e.g., "an *opinuated* mule."

**OPOSSUM.**—See 'POSSUM.

**ORATE, To.**—To make a speech. Compare with DONATE, LOCATE, and similar forms.

**ORDINARY.**—In Connecticut a synonym for plainness and homeliness of feature; in the West its contracted form *or'nerly*, is frequently used to describe anything mean and insignificant.

**ORIGINAL HAND** (in poker).—The first five cards dealt to any player.—*The American Hoyle*.

**ORIOLE.**—See BALTIMORE ORIOLE.

**ORLEANS.**—A telegraphic form for New Orleans.

**OR'NERY.**—A corruption of "ordinary," to the primary meaning of which is added a spice of contempt for the man or object so described.

It was pretty OR'NERY preaching—all about brotherly love and such-like tiresomeness; but everybody said it was a good sermon, and they all talked it over going home, and had such a powerful lot to sav about faith, and good works, and free grace, and prefore-ordestination, and I don't know what all, that it did seem to me to be one of the roughest Sundays I had run across yet.—*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, p. 167.

'Hain't I got religun?' demanded Joe. 'Has a b'ar got wings?' answered one of the women. 'The Lord wouldn't hev ye, Joe, an' you know it. You's too OR'NERY all through. You's too lazy to hold to religun if you got it.'—*North-western Chronicle*, 1888.

**ORTHOGRAPHY.**—It is not alone in idiom and pronunciation that the English of the New differs from that of the Old World. In *orthography* there are important variations, a few only of which, as types of their class, it is possible to give within the limited compass of this work. In words like "traveller" a single *l* is substituted for the double consonant, thus *traveler*; words ending in *tre* as "theatre" change the termination into *ter*; the syllable *our* in such words as "favour" elides the *u* and the word appears as *favor*, a change which is now not uncommon in England. This deflection is even extended to words like mould, now written *mold*, while plumb appears as *plum*. These are examples only of modifications of *orthography* a full list of which will be found in Webster's *Unabridged*. The tendency seems to be to cast out all superfluous consonants and vowels, and to adopt as far as possible, without

violent change, a phonetic orthographical basis.

**ORTOLAN.**—The BOBOLINK (*q.v.*). This is a very different bird to the European variety.

**OSAGE ORANGE.**—Otherwise the BOIS D'ARC or BODOK (*q.v.*).

The colonel had bought a home on the edge of the town, with some ten acres of beautiful ground surrounding. A high OSAGE-ORANGE hedge shut it in, and forest trees, chiefly maples and elms, gave to the lawn and house abundant shade.—*Century Magazine*, 1888.

**OSTLER** (Cant).—A horse thief.

**OSWEGO TEA** (*Monarda didyma*).—A Shaker preparation.

**OTTOMISED** (Cant).—Dissected. In English slang "ottomy," a skeleton, is derived through a mispronunciation of anatomy.

**OUCH!**—A Southern exclamation of pain. It appears to be a survival, for it is quoted in ancient glossaries.

**UGHTNESS.**—From ought, to be necessary; to be obliged; a creation of the Rev. Joseph Cook, who defines the office of conscience to be "the determination of rightness and oughtness in human affairs."

**OUT.**—(1) In Connecticut a curious usage of *out* is colloquial. The wind is *out*, *i.e.*, comes from the outward—the sea.—(2) *Out* is sometimes used substantively, to signify a member of the political party not in power whether local or national. These are collectively called the *outs*, the opposite side being the *INS* (*q.v.*). Thus if the Republicans have a majority in the Government they represent the *ins*,

in which case the Democrats would be the *outs*.—(3) (Cant).—A discarded mistress. *Out* is occasionally used to signify *out* of humor or temper.—To *OUT*.—Southern for "to put out," *e.g.*, *out* the fire!—*OUTCRY*.—Until recently this old Saxon synonym for "public auction" was current in some of the remoter districts. *OUTER*.—A negro corruption for "out of."—*OUTFIT*.—A comprehensive term variously applied. An expedition of any sort, large or small, is an *outfit*; so, also, a hanging or a lumbering party, etc. Likewise a person in a buggy; or one pushing a wheelbarrow; and the term is indifferently applied to a party as a whole, or to its means of travel, its subsistence, etc. There is also the verb to *OUTFIT*, *i.e.*, to fit out for any purpose whatsoever. "We *outfitted* at St. Paul."

When Mac and I looked carelessly into that long hole after the smoke had cleared away you could have knocked either of us over with a feather. The fortune we had longed for lay at our feet. The last blast had disclosed one of the finest bodies of ore we had ever seen. We made no outcry, and the miners paying no attention to the hole, we covered it up and went back to camp. That night we let three of the most reckless devils in the *OUTFIT* into the secret, and the next morning I started for San Francisco. No man was to leave that camp until I returned.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, February 16, 1888.

I returned to Las Vegas with a freighter, whose *OUTFIT* consisted of six horses and two wagons, one of the latter being a trail vehicle.—*Missouri Republican*, April 1, 1888.

A young lady who holds a responsible position in the Detroit post-office wore a dress one summer which was the admiration of all her friends. It was suitable for a company *OUTFIT*, and the material cost just sixty-five cents.—*Godey's Lady's Book*, Philadelphia, 1888.

If low in purse [the miner], traverses the mountains on foot; but if able to own an animal, he has a broncho (native or Californian) pony, mule, or jack, on which he carries his *OUTFIT*, consisting of grub, pan, spade, blanket, and revolver.—*McClure's The Rocky Mountains*, p. 319.



To get competent guides is the chief difficulty. The men who can or will take an outfit through a mountainous country, where they have never been before, are few and far between.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

What do you suppose I saw? A camp of four red-skins not over 200 feet away! They had come into the cove through a ravine at the upper end, probably arriving the evening before, and were now just awakening from their night's sleep. They were out for a hunt as their outfit showed, and as soon as they began to move about they must discover the tracks of the mule and suspect my presence.—*Mobile Register*, 1888.

—Worcester also gives *outfit* as an allowance to a public minister of the United States, on going to a foreign country, which cannot exceed a year's salary. — **OUT OF FIX.**—Disarranged; in a state of disorder; the reverse of being "fixed."—*See* **FIX.** — **OUT OF WHACK.**—In Virginia machinery is said to be *out of whack* when out of repair.—**TO OUTQUASH.**—A superlative form of to quash in the sense of to upset.

Those were quashing times, and they were the **OUTQUASHINGEST** set of fellows ever known. In one court, forthcoming bonds to the amount of some hundred thousand dollars were quashed, because the execution was written State of Mississippi, instead of The State of Mississippi—the constitution requiring the style of process to be, The State of Mississippi—an **OUTQUASHING** process, which vindicated the constitution at the expense of foreign creditors.—*Flush Times of Alabama*.

—**OUTSIDE.**—A vulgarism for beside or except; its most frequent and worst form is when applied to persons, e.g., "*Outside* of the tradesmen there was no one at the meeting."—**TO GET OUTSIDE A THING** is to understand it, or to use an expression very common in the West Indies, to get to the windward of it; to have the whip hand over it.—**OUT WEST**, i.e., simply West.

**OVEN** (Cant).—A large mouth.

**OVER.**—**OVERBIT.**—A cattle mark.—*See* **BRAND.**—**OVERCUT WHITE OAK.**—*See* **BURR-OAK.**—**OVERHACK.**—A ranchman's mark for cattle.—*See* **BRAND.**—**OVERHALF-CROSS.**—One of the many marks used in branding cattle.—*See* **BRAND.**—**OVERLY.**—Very. Generally used negatively as not *overly* presentable.

He is awful conceited, and not **OVERLY** polite.—*Lippincott's Magazine*.

—**OVERSEER.**—A manager's deputy on a sugar plantation.

The estates [of the planters] were managed by **OVERSEERS**, who directed the agricultural operations and managed the slaves through colored deputies called drivers.—*South Carolina Society Atlantic Monthly*, 1877, p. 671.

—**OVERSLAUGH.**—This, says De Vere, is from the Dutch term *overslaan*, to skip, to pretermit, which still survives in a few local names, where sand-bars suddenly interrupt the free navigation of rivers, as in the *overslaugh* in the Hudson below Albany, the dread of all skippers. The same verb, it is well known, has given the familiar term *overslaughing*, for the act of rewarding an outsider at the expense of the person entitled to the preferment by seniority in office.—**OVER-SLOPE.**—A technical brand for cattle used on the ranches of the West.—*See* **BRAND.** —**TO OVERTURE.**—To propose. A subject is *overtured* in the Presbyterian Church when presented to the ruling body for consideration.

**OWL-CAR.**—A tram-car plying late into the night.

**OYSTER-FISH** (*Batrachus tau*).—A New Jersey name for the toad-fish. In New England it is called the **GRUBBLY**. This fish is not pleasing to look upon.—**OYSTER SHUCKER.**—In the South an oyster-opener. **SHUCK** (*q.v.*) is a synonym of shell.



**P**AAS.—This old Dutch term for Easter is still retained in some parts of the State of New York. — Hence PAAS BLOOMACHEES, Easter flowers, by which the common yellow daffodil (*Narcissus pseudo-narcissus*) is generally understood. — See BLUMMIE. — PAAS EGGS.—Easter eggs.

**PACIFIC STATES.**—California, Nevada, and Oregon.

**PACK, To.**—In transporting merchandise and stores overland, the goods are, for convenience, made up into bundles or *packs*, and hence is derived the verb *to pack*, *i.e.*, to convey; or to carry, *e.g.*, will you *pack* this letter for me?

**PADDLE.**—A paddle- (or oar-) shaped rod used at one time in punishing negroes. The blade of the instrument, which was of wood, had holes bored through it. — To PADDLE.—To punish or beat with the aforesaid instrument. — To PADDLE ONE'S OWN CANOE.—To rely upon personal effort for advancement; to be self-reliant. Like to BAIL ONE'S OWN BOAT, this phrase is of Western origin, and is derived from the extensive use of water communication. The French have a very similar saying: in *il conduit bien sa barque*, and the expression has been familiarized in

England by a song entitled "Paddle your own canoe."

**PAINT.**—A spotted horse or other animal is, in the South or Southwest, thus designated. — To PAINT THE TOWN RED.—See TOWN.

**PAINTED BOX.**—A coffin.

We give such creatures timely and due notice to have a PAINTED BOX prepared, if they ever intend to apply such insulting epithets to us, for if they do they will go up the spout, as surely as there is virtue in powder. — *Point Pleasant Register, Va.*

**PAINTER.**—The corrupted but popular name of the panther or puma. — See COUGAR.

**PAIR-OFF, To.**— This expression to signify an agreement on the part of two members of differing parties in a legislative or other body, to absent themselves from voting, the one thus neutralizing the other, is generally understood to have originated in America. *Pairing off* was first practised there in 1839, and though in the beginning looked upon with disfavor, is now regarded as a thoroughly legitimate arrangement; indeed the practice has been adopted by all legislative bodies throughout the civilized world.

**PALACE CAR.**— A railway carriage fitted up in luxurious style. — See CAR. Steamers, too, in the Yankee's efforts to " whip creation

all round," when of a superior class, are termed PALACE STEAMERS, and prominent citizens occupy PALATIAL residences. Referring to this American love of big names, De Vere remarks, it is to be hoped that the introduction of *Stock Palace Cars* on some of the Northern roads will speedily lead to the adoption of more appropriate names, for surely all the sensible and most praiseworthy improvements in cattle-trains would not justify the name of palaces for their stalls!

**PALE FACES.**—It is more than doubtful whether this term for white men ever originated, as it is alleged, with the aborigines; and it is far more likely to have been a simply natural outcome of poetic license. It is, however, very commonly colloquial.

**PALM, TO.**—To smear; blot; or smudge with the hands. A New England idiom. Pronounced *paum*.

**PALMATEER.**—Frequently written and pronounced PARMATEER (*q.v.*).

**PALM CABBAGE.**—Otherwise cabbage-tree or *cabbage-palm*.—See CABBAGE. The young shoots are used as a vegetable.

**PALMETTO** (*Chamærops palmetto*).—A miniature palm-like tree. The large fan-shaped leaves are extensively employed for thatching purposes. PALMETTO HATS are also manufactured from its fibrous fronds.—PALMETTO CITY.—Augusta, the capital of South Carolina. The armorial bearings of this State consist of a *palmetto*, that useful and valuable tree being very abundant within its borders. The State itself is hence called the PALMETTO STATE.

**PALMILLA** (*Chlorogalum pomeridianum*).—The soap plant or amole of California and New Mexico.—See AMOLE.

**PANDOWDY.**—Also known in New England as APPLE SLUMP.—See under APPLE.

**PANEL-CRIB, PANEL-DEN, PANEL-HOUSE.**

—A brothel, the interior arrangements of which are specially fitted up to facilitate robbery. The *modus operandi*, though varied sometimes in detail, is generally as follows. A woman of the town having picked up a stranger, and induced him to accompany her home, takes him to one of these *panel-houses*, known also as BADGER-CRIBS, SHAKE-DOWNS, and TOUCH-CRIBS. The room to which he is conducted has several means of ingress, one or more being secret. False door frames, movable *panels*, and even the backs of what appear to be ordinary wardrobes against a wall—all swinging noiselessly on well-oiled hinges, and apparently well secured by lock and bolt—are some of the methods of securing secret admission. While the woman is engaged with her victim—having first, quite unusually, made sure that the lights are not too high—an accomplice, generally a man who lives upon her earnings, enters the room, rifles the victim's pockets, and then retires. The next move is to cause the man to leave in haste, so, coming to the genuine door of the apartment, the accomplice knocks, demands admission, using such language as to lead the woman's companion to suppose that her husband is outside. Naturally alarmed, and with visions of outraged conjugality, and perhaps, as he thinks, public exposure before his eyes, he hastily dresses and



leaves by another door, thinking himself fortunate to have escaped the clutches of the angry pseudo-husband. Too late he discovers that the whole thing is a "plant," and that he has been duped. The prostitutes who act as decoys generally aim at inveigling passing strangers, so as to reduce to a minimum the chances, few enough in any case, of prosecution.—**PANEL THIEF.**—A thief who commits his depredations in the manner described.

**PANHANDLE.**—The *Panhandle* is a fanciful name for the most northerly portion of the state of West Virginia. It is a long, narrow, wedge-shaped projection between the Ohio river and the western boundary of Pennsylvania, Texas, and Nevada.—Texas and Nevada also have *panhandles*.

The **PANHANDLE** of Texas offers desirable homes to a million of people, at a nominal price, on terms which place them within the reach of the poorest, and that the surplus population of the country may be absorbed in happy, hospitable, and prosperous communities without breaking the plighted faith of the nation, which should be held equally sacred with prince and savage.—*Missouri Republican*, February 24, 1888.

**PAN MILL.**—A miner's apparatus used in separating gold from the alloy of earth, with which it is found mingled.

A San Francisco lady and gentleman were walking by the campdodie, on their way to inspect the California **PAN MILL**. After they had passed about a rod beyond the dusky old miser, he suddenly recalled himself, and vociferated a hearty, rousing, Good morning, madam!—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, March 8, 1888.

—Hence to **PAN OUT**, in the idiomatic sense of to turn out, from the process of *panning* in mining operations to ascertain the out-turn of gold or other mining products.

They got to blows, but things didn't **PAN OUT** as I thought they would. That Scroggin boy crawled home the worst whipped boy you ever saw. His nose was split like a peach, his left eye was in mourning, there was a lump on his forehead as large as a goose egg, and his off-leg limped painfully after its mate.—*Rocky Mountain News*, 1888.

The sober business men of the town refused to believe that a penniless young man, with nothing to back him but a dream, had secured almost unlimited credit and a rich heiress in the bargain. 'Dreams don't **PAN OUT** that way,' said one of them, and this was the general opinion.—*Providence (R.I.) Journal*, 1888.

**PAN PIE.**—Apple slump.—See under **APPLE**.

**PANSCIOLOGY.**—From *pan*, all, *scio*, I know, and *logos*, discourse. A new but regular formation to describe a pretentious smattering of universal knowledge.

Dr. Jean Roemer's work on the origins of the English people and language (D. Appleton & Co.) will be found valuable by all students of language. It is a scholarly book, tracing the growth of modern English under the Roman, Saxon, Danish and French influences. Naturally, it is most largely devoted to Anglo-Saxon, and no one interested in English literature who follows the author can fail to admire the painstaking care with which he walks along the lines of broad ideas. Much of what has been published on this subject in America is the result of **PANSCIOLOGY**, but people who hate smatterers, will experience nothing but pleasure in Dr. Roemer's acquaintance.—*Missouri Republican*, March 2, 1888.

**PANTALOONERY.**—A prices current term for fabrics of which pants or trousers are made. The English term is "trouserings."

**PANTS, PANTIES.**—Trousers; the Americans never speak of this article of attire but as *pants* or *panties*. The term is an abbreviation of "pantaloons."

**PAPABOTTE.**—A delicious specimen, from the epicure's point of view, of the plover family. It visits the Western prairies in large numbers,

semi-annually; early in the spring and late in the summer. In the latter season, it is so fat that it flies heavily, and if "killed dead," to use a sportsman's phrase, when more than ten feet from the ground, it often bursts by concussion with the earth.

**PAPAW** (*Asimina triloba*).—This is no relation of the genuine *papaw* of the tropics, but the same name has been applied to it on account of a fancied resemblance, in the taste of its fruit, to the Simon pure. It is largely used by the Indians as food; and its young branches being supple and tough, they are occasionally employed as a substitute for the willow.

**PAPER CITY**.—Literally "a city on paper"—only this and nothing more, as Poe's Raven would have said. Speculation in land has, at times, run to such lengths in the United States, that unprincipled adventurers have been known to issue plans of a thriving city in some little known locality, and to induce greenhorn emigrants to repair thither, only to find that sometimes not even a log shanty was erected on a spot which, on paper, had been represented with houses, banks, manufactories, and other resources of civilization. In other cases **LOTS** (*q.v.*) have been marked out and sold which, to the vendors' disgust and chagrin, have been found to be situated in the Pacific, some hundreds of yards from the shore.—See **LOT**.

**PAPER GARMENTS**.—A recent invention. The idea contains the germ of untold possibilities!

When black underclothes were introduced I was ready for almost any other innovation, I knew not what and could not conjecture what it would be. It has come, and with it,

to my mind, an awful danger. **PAPER GARMENTS** for ladies is the very latest. A friend has just received an outfit—for his wife showed them to me. They are built of the same paper apparently of which the Chinese napkins are made. Their peculiarity is the same, too; the more they are wrinkled and crushed the softer they become; the more they are used the more pliable are they. Only one danger that I can see lurks in them, but that is a terrific danger. Suppose all the button-holes moisten at the same moment, what is to spare the nakedness of the charming wearer? —*New York Mercury*, July 21, 1888.

**PAPPOOSE**.—The derivation of this word has much exercised the minds of philologists. Its suggested origin in an Indian dialect was manifestly fanciful; now, however, it is a pretty generally received opinion, that *pappoose* is an imperfect attempt at the pronunciation of the English word "babies," somewhat in the same way that the word **YANKEE** (*q.v.*) is the outcome of a similar attempt to pronounce the word "English." — **PAPPOOSE ROOT** (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*).—A variety, otherwise called **BLUE COHOSH**.—See **COHOSH**.

**PARBUCKLE**.—An arrangement of ropes for hoisting purposes. Whether this is a genuine Americanism is somewhat doubtful.

**PARD**.—Universally colloquial for "partner," of which it is a corruption.

**PARIS OF AMERICA**.—Cincinnati. This city is also called **QUEEN CITY** and **PORKOPOLIS**, the latter because of its being a large centre of the pork-packing industry.

**PARISH**.—In certain parts, notably in Louisiana, *parish* is synonymous with county.

**PARLOR**.—The drawing-room of English houses, until lately, was called a *parlor*. Latterly, however, a wave

of Anglo-mania has popularized the Old English usage.

**PARMATEER OR PALMATEER.**—A political Americanism now almost, if not altogether obsolete. Derived from the French *parler*, to speak, through "Parliament." It was once used in Rhode Island as an equivalent of "to electioneer."

**PAROLED, To BE.**—To be released or remanded on bail. The American form is obviously an extension of the military term or usage of a prisoner being liberated on his giving his *parole d'honneur*.

The technical charge against Fox is that of aiding and abetting prize fighting, and making his office the rendezvous for men bent on violating the law. Fox asked for an adjournment of the examination until Tuesday next, which was granted. The defendant was **PAROLED** on his own recognisance. —*Troy Daily Times*, February 7, 1888.

Brodie asserted that he could bring a witness to prove that he had agreed to pay eight dols. per month each for the support of his children, and he was **PAROLED** until August 8. —*New York Herald*, July 29, 1888.

**PARQUET.**—Few would recognize in this term an American equivalent for the "pit" of English playhouses. The usage is distinctly American, and this particular application of the term, which literally means "an inlaid floor," was introduced, it is said, on the opening of the New York Academy of Music.

**PARTICULARISTS.**—An offshoot of the Whig party, which came into prominence shortly after the Revolution. Known subsequently as **ANTI-FEDERALS**, their distinctive **PLATFORM** (*q.v.*) was the advocacy of **STATES' RIGHTS** (*q.v.*), as opposed to the **STRONG GOVERNMENT WHIGS** of that period, who, on the other hand, favored the doctrine of the supremacy of Federal interests.

**PARTICULAR JESSE.**—See **JESSE**.

**PARTRIDGE BERRY** (*Mitchella repens* and *Gaultheria procumbens*). — This popular name is given to both species, and though the scarlet berries of each are alike in appearance, the resemblance ends there, for while the former is tasteless, the berry of the latter is highly flavored, and pleasant to the palate. Also called **CHECKERBERRY**, **CHICK-BERRY** and **TWINBERRY**.

**PASIGRAPHY.**—A universal language of telegraphic signs.

We must also look after **PASIGRAPHY**. The telegraph operators who send messages between countries speaking different languages are agreeing on signs, each to stand for all words of the same sense in all the languages with which they have to do, just as Arabic figures do over so large a part of the world, and a kind of universal language for the telegraph will soon grow up, to the astonishment of the world. —*New York Times*, 1888.

**PASS** (in poker).—"I pass," is a term used in draw poker, to signify that a player throws up his hand, and retires from the game. —*The American Hoyle*. — **TO PASS A DIVIDEND.** — In mercantile circles to vote against the declaration of a dividend.

**PASSAGE.**—This word, in the sense of "enactment," is of American origin. It can, however, no longer be regarded as outside the standard of the dictionaries, having long since taken its place in spite of long and sustained opposition. To speak of the *passage* of a measure through Parliament, etc., is commonly and respectably colloquial among all English-speaking people.

**PASSAGEWAY.**—An aisle or gangway.

We are very clearly of the opinion that there is but one room that can be used by this



house, and that is the senate chamber. A diagram of that room has been made; the settees can still be retained upon the side of that chamber, and ample room can be had upon the floor for all the seats of this house, with a **PASSAGEWAY** through the centre, one upon each side, and a respectable lobby in the rear, and in addition to that, we have the galleries, where people who are interested in this session can meet with us.—*Troy Daily Times*, February 7, 1888.

**PASSENGER.**—To WAKE UP THE WRONG PASSENGER.—To be "mistaken in one's man"; to commit an error of judgment in regard to the character, action, or motive of persons. The allusion is obviously to a very well-known incident of transcontinental travel.

**PASSIONESS.**—Mrs. Ella Wheeler Wilcox has been called the Boston *passioness*, on account of the tender strain of human sympathy running through most of her poetical productions.

**PASTERS.**—See both EEL-SKIN and SCRATCHING.

**PATENT OUTSIDES.**—Known technically among English newspaper men as "white sheets," *patent outsides* may be described to the uninitiated as partly printed newspapers, supplied wholesale by firms who make a speciality of their production. The blank side or space is subsequently filled with local matter. The system is a boon to many small papers, as it considerably reduces the cost of production. On the other hand, country editors, who use *patent outsides*, run a certain risk as to a strict consistency existing between the "patent" and "local" columns of their journals.

**PATENT-RIGHT.**—This form is used instead of "letters patent," as in England.

**PAT HAND** (in poker).—An original hand not likely to be improved by drawing, such as full, straight, flush, or pairs.—*The American Hoyle*.

**PATROLMAN.**—A police constable.

Edward Nolan, formerly a ball tosser known as the Only Nolan, but at present a **PATROLMAN** in Paterson, N.J., was accosted early yesterday morning by a well-dressed man, who asked him to arrest a woman who was walking along the opposite side of the street.—*New York Herald*, July 29, 1888.

**PATROON.**—An old Dutch title for a member of a land syndicate. *Patroons* obtained grants of land on condition of planting colonies.—**PATROONSHIP.**—The office of a patroon.

**PAUHAGEN, POWHAGEN.**—The **MENHADEN** or **BONY FISH** (*q.v.*).

**PAUNCH, TO.**—To shoot a refractory steer through the *paunch*, producing a temporary quietude. A plainsman's term.

**PAW.**—A corruption of "pa" for father. Another familiar equivalent is **POP** or **PAP**.

This year the Cripps were bent on a lark, and may be they might get religion. And so one morning **PAW** hitched the steers to the old canvas-covered wagon, etc., etc.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*, 1888.

—To **PAW**.—To finger; to handle. "To *paw* the ivories," *i.e.*, to play the piano.—**PAW-PAW.**—A political free lance—a term current in Missouri. (See **BUSH-WHACKER** under **BUSH**.) The *paw-paw* is a wild fruit, popularly supposed to form the means of subsistence of the individuals in question.

**PAWNHOST.**—A negro term for the **LEVERWORSCHT**, or liver-sausage of the Pennsylvania Dutch.

**PAY-DIRT.**—A miner's term, signifying earth which it pays to work.—*See* DIRT.

There was no elegance about Dead Sioux, for it was a new mining town nestling in Dead Sioux canyon. Yet money, or its equivalent, ore, was plentiful in Dead Sioux, for almost every prospector in the canyon was striking it rich. PAY-DIRT had been found about a month before, and miners, gamblers, claim-jumpers, and sharks were crossing the mountain trail into Dead Sioux canyon in frightful numbers.—*The Critic*, April 14, 1888.

—Variants are PAY-ROCK, PAYING-ROCK, and PAY-STREAK.

He disclosed the fact that he was penniless and must have money, no matter at what cost or by what means. He decided to make one last blast for PAYING ROCK.—*Detroit Free Press*, August, 1888.

**P. D. Q.**—A contracted and half-veiled oath—pretty d—d quick. Very common.

Sunday evening James Smith, a cowboy from Mason Valley, arrived in town on the hurricane deck of a sad-eyed mule, and was amusing a crowd on C street by causing the animal to perform numerous tricks. Chief of Police Henderson appeared on the scene and ordered Smith to move on with his mule, and be P. D. Q. about it, too, or he would arrest both him and the animal.—*Virginia City Chronicle*, May, 1888.

**PEAC, PEAGE, OR PEAK.**—A variety of Indian shell specie.—*See* also COHOG, SEAWAN, and WAMPUM.

**PEACE.**—LET US HAVE PEACE.—A famous saying of General Grant in allusion to the protracted warfare between the Northern and Southern States.

**PEACEMAKER.**—A Texas term for a revolver; a sarcastic commentary on the proverb that "Short reckonings make long friends."—*See* MEAT IN THE POT.

**PEACH, TO.**—To inform against; to betray. Slang in England, but colloquial in America.

**PEACH BUTTER.**—Stewed peaches. Compare with APPLE BUTTER.—**PEACH LEATHER.**—Peaches treated in the same way as apples are in the production of APPLE LEATHER (*q.v.*).

**PEA COAL.**—Small coal produced by sifting.

**PEALER.**—An energetic, go-ahead individual. Among innumerable variants may be mentioned HUMMER, ROUSER, RUSTLER (*q.v.*).

**PEA-NUT** (*Arachnis hypogæa*).—*Pea-nut* is one of the Southern names for what, in other parts of the Union, is known as the GROUND-NUT and EARTH-NUT, the latter from its habit of growth: while among the negroes it is called PINDER, and in Texas and Louisiana, GOOBER and GOOBER-PEA.—**PEA-NUT POLITICS.**—A peculiar habit of the *pea-nut* (see foregoing) is that of burying its pods underground after flowering, a process by which the nuts are ripened. The term *pea-nut politics*, therefore, is a popular allusion to describe underhand and secret tactics.

Governor Hill to-day said what he thought of Quarantine Commissioner T. C. Platt's letter, offering to resign his post, if the Governor would consent not to play PEA-NUT POLITICS, and would appoint Colonel Fred Grant in his stead.—*New York Mail and Express*, May 27, 1887.

**PEARL TAPIOCA.**—A substitute for the tapioca of commerce. A product of the potato.

**PEART, PEERT, PIERT.**—This Old English corruption of "pert" has well-nigh died out in all but the most remote parts of the Mother Country, but it is still commonly colloquial throughout the Union. It is usually synonymous with brisk; lively; quick; but is occasionally

used in the modified sense of healthy.

'You don't tell me that you had melons weighing 800 pounds?'

'Oh! those were the little one's. The big ones cum nigher a ton. I hadn't no scales, but all my neighbors are mighty PEART on guessing.'—*American Humorist*, Sept. 15, 1888.

'Miss Bella done learn how to talk,' said Sarah, in the kitchen cabinet, 'and she look as rosy and PEART! her heart ain't broke!'

'Broke wid what?' asked Aunt Hagar. 'I alwayth telled you that no young mith of mine wath given to hurt herthelf grieving after a no-account feller like that down yonder in Richmond.'—*The Hidden Path*.

**PEA-TIME.**—THE LAST OF PEA-TIME OR PEA-PICKING.—A familiar phrase drawn from the decline in fruitfulness, which characterizes the later crops of this staple of food. Metaphorically, when a man is said to be in the *last of pea-time*, it is meant that he is in the decline of years, or that his opportunities of usefulness to himself, or his fellows, are passing away, or that he is "hard-up." When dead, or when chances are gone beyond recall, "*pea-time* is over." She looks like the *last of pea picking*, i.e., sickly, faded; *passée*.

But thet's what folks wun't never larn; they dunno how to go,  
Arter you want their room, now more'n a  
bullet headed beau;  
There's oller's chaps a-hangin' roun' that  
can't see PEA-TIME's past;  
Mis'ble as roosters in a rain, heads down an'  
tails half mast.

—*Biglow Papers*.

**PECAN-NUT** (*Carya oliviformis*).—A variety of hickory, the fruit of which is the most esteemed of the nut-kind of America.

**PECCARY.**—The native American hog. Its chief peculiarity is the secretion of a noisome liquid, which, when enraged, it expels.

**PECKERWOOD.**—The woodpecker. A meaningless Western transposition,

probably only born of a love of singularity.

**PECULIAR INSTITUTION.**—Political slang, the full phrase being "the *peculiar domestic institution of the South*." It is believed to have been first used in *The South Carolina Gazette*, which advertised that all strangers from the North should be kept under surveillance because of "the dangers which at present threaten the *peculiar domestic institutions of the South*" (circa 1852). The phrase is found in *The New York Tribune* of October 19, 1854, and soon became part of the current speech of the time.

I doubt if any man, who never lived in a slave state before the war, can fully realize all that was meant by the abolition of slavery in the United States. It was called THE PECULIAR INSTITUTION. It was not only peculiar, but unique. Human slavery has always existed somewhere, in some shape, but never elsewhere under the same conditions that were impressed upon it by our civilization. We wonder now that it should have existed at all, or even though inherited, should have endured so long among a people, professedly Christian, and boasting free institutions.—*Missouri Republican*, April 8, 1888.

— PECULIAR KINK was the somewhat more facetious term subsequently applied by sarcastic Northerners.

**PECULIARITIES OF PRONUNCIATION.**—*See PRONUNCIATION.*

**PEELED.**—TO KEEP ONE'S EYES PEELED.—To keep a sharp look out; to be careful. A variation of "to keep one's eyes skinned."—*See EYES SKINNED.*

**PEGGED OUT.**—Ruined or used up. Said of both men and things.

**PELICAN STATE.**—The State of Louisiana. The *pelican*, a bird common within its limits, appears on the armorial bearings of this



State, which is also called the CREOLE STATE (*q.v.*).

**PELTRY.**—A skin or hide. Sometimes shortened into PELT.

Most of the trappers are Americans, but there are some Frenchmen and half-breeds among them. . . . All of them depend upon their rifles only for food and self-defence, and make their living by trapping, PELTRIES being very valuable, and yet not bulky. They are good game shots, especially the pure Americans.—*Century Magazine*, Oct., 1888.

It was against such wily foes, not one of whom had the least mercy in his heart for a white man, that the hunter and trapper of years ago had to pit his craft and judgment. Scores of them yielded up their scalps in the struggle, but others beat the red man at his own game. It wasn't so much for the value of the PELTS which the hunter would acquire, but there were men who loved the feeling of danger and the wild, free life. The best of the trappers hardly came out even at the end, but, unless rubbed out or laid up, they never changed the avocation for one less dangerous.—*Forest and Stream*, 1888.

**PEMBINA.**—A French-Canadian term for the *Viburnum edule*, thought by some to be a variety of the CRANBERRY-TREE OR CRAMP BARK (*q.v.*).

**PEMMICAN.**—A well-known and important article of food, the preparation of which has been thus described. Next to succotash, the most important article of food with the Indian was probably pemmican, which has remained the main reliance of all explorers, hunters, and voyagers. The name consists of the two Kenisteno words *pemis*, which means fat, and *egan*, the general substantive inflection, so that the whole simply signifies "fat-substance." It consists mainly of buffalo meat—though other meat is sometimes used in the same manner—dried in flakes and then pounded between two stones. The powder is next put into bags made of the hide of the slain animal,

with the hair outside, into which melted fat is poured till it is quite full. Then, the whole being pressed down, the top of the bag is closely sewed up, and thus the valuable provender can be easily carried and long preserved. Fifty pounds of meat and forty pounds of fat make a bag of pemmican, and will last a careful traveller several months. In this state it may be eaten raw, but the voyageurs generally mix it with a little flour and water, and then boil it, in which form it is known throughout the North-western territory under the elegant name of ROBBIBOE. Travellers have always found pemmican good and wholesome food, though it would perhaps be more palatable without its unprepossessing appearance and a goodly number of buffalo hairs, which are apt to be mixed up with it through the carelessness of the hunters. The pemmican of Arctic explorers and hunters in other continents is made of any meat that is available, after the same pattern, and often, for good reasons, without the admixture of fat.

**PEN.**—(1) A journalistic abbreviation of penitentiary.

In the circuit court this afternoon F. A. Bennett pleaded guilty to a charge of burglary and grand larceny, and was sentenced to five years in the PENITENTIARY. Some ten days ago he was caught in the act of robbing his employer's store. Three years ago he burglarized a saloon here, but his friends compromised the matter, and kept him from going to the PEN.—*Missouri Republican*, February 11, 1888.

—(2) In Jamaica a cattle or stud-farm. In Kentucky similar estates are called CATTLE-RANGES.

—See CATTLE.—PEN-NAME.—A pseudonym; a literal translation of the more familiar French term *nom de plume*.

The Russian who writes over the PEN-NAME of 'Stepniak' has in hand a work on

the Russian Peasantry, which will deal in five sections with 'The Agrarian Question,' 'The Moujiks,' 'Paternal Government,' 'Hard Times,' and 'Religion.' — *Galveston News*, 1888.

**PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH.**—A South German *patois* composed of dialects of Franconia, the Rhenish Palatinate, and Swabian and Allemanian districts, more or less interspersed with Germanised English words, according to the locality of settlement; in some places no foreign additions are at all observable. It took root with the first settlers in the State of Pennsylvania. Germans joined the expedition of William Penn in 1682, and settled in the Colony together with the Quakers from England. These were reinforced about the same time when the Moravian Count Tinzendorff, together with a large number of his co-religionists, removed and settled in and west of the Lehigh valley, and later on, in 1708, the Dunkers or German Baptists swelled the German element in Pennsylvania. Traces of these settlements can still be found in such names of places as Lebanon, Bethlehem, Emmaus, Nazareth, and Jordan. The modified German of these people and their descendants, together with numerous admixtures from the English, form the dialect now known as *Pennsylvania Dutch* (from *Deutsch*, German), and which used to be heard a good deal in Philadelphia, but the public school system has not been at all favorable to its retention. Latterly, however, an attempt has been made to resuscitate it, but differences of opinion exist as to the proper mode of spelling. This *patois* is still spoken by a population, centred round the cities of Philadelphia and New York, of more than two million inhabitants, who in many respects strangely resemble their

rural ancestors in Germany of more than two centuries ago.

It belongs (says Dr. Bausman, in his edition of the poems of Dr. H. Harbaugh), to the South German dialects, and, while partaking of all, it is most closely allied to the Pfälzisch—that is, to the Rhine German of the Palatinate. In the valley of the Susquehanna, and beyond the Alleghany, it is much mingled with English. Farther in the West we find in it traces of Scottish, Irish, Swedish, and French. It is specially remarkable in its having retained great numbers of old and curious German words, such as are now to be heard only in the remotest places of the Fatherland. We find the influence of the unchangeable English article 'the' in *der*. Thus a man will say: *Hen —sherr der blind Gaul uf, mer welle uf der markt fahre—i.e., Henry, harness the blind horse; we will go to market!*

These people are strikingly conservative, as may be gathered from the following incident. Some years since there were to be seen in a shop in Philadelphia several large books of Lutheran devotion, in the type and spelling of 1540, bound in deeply stamped white vellum, with heavy brass clasps. They did not look like imitations of old books, they seemed to be "the thing itself"; but the date was recent. "They are for the *Pennsylvania Dutch*," said the bookseller. "They would not believe that the Lord would hear them if they prayed to him out of a modern-looking book. And those books, as you see them, have been printed and bound in that style for nearly 200 years for the *Pennsylvania Dutch* market, just as they were printed for their ancestors during the Reformation."

**PENNY.**—A cent, and thus about half the value of an English penny.

**PENNYROYAL.**—(1) The English plant of this name is a mint, but in America the title is conferred upon *Hedeoma pulegioides*, a common weed which, however, has properties akin to

those of the true plant.—Hence  
PENNYROYAL TEA.

'Hev you got a cold, uncle?' sez I, 'If you hev there's nothin' better than butter and merlasses, simmered tergether. I allers take it when I hev a cold. PENNYROYAL TEA is also dredfool good.'—*Portland Transcript*, March 7, 1888.

—(2) A Western term used adjectively to describe inferior stock. A *pennyroyal* horse is a poor, common beast.

**PENTWAY.**—A semi-public road; a road closed to vehicular traffic but open to foot passengers. These have now almost disappeared from New England, in which locality they were once frequently met with.

**PEPPERIDGE** (*Nyssa multiflora*).—The BLACK or SOUR GUM. This is the popular name in the South and West for a tree known to the Indians as the TUPELO, an appellation also very familiar to New Englanders.

**PERIAUGER.**—See PIRAGUA.

**PERMANENT BOARDER.**—The boarding-out system being a special feature of American social life, the terms *permanent boarder* and *transient boarder* are often used to signify those who take up their residence for any length of time, or only temporarily, at a given hotel or boarding-house.

**PERMIT.**—Tickets of admission are commonly called *permits*.

**PERNICKITY.**—A New England colloquialism signifying fastidious; over-particular; finnickings.

**PERSIMMON** (*Diospyros virginiana*).—A hard wood tree, the name of which is of Indian origin, found

south of latitude 42°. Its plum-like fruit, when unripe, is very astringent, and it is only after exposure to frost that its delicate flavor is brought out. The negroes are extremely partial to this product of the *persimmon* (a word which they invariably shorten into *'simmon'*), and from it they brew a favorite beverage, called PERSIMMON BEER.

Here we saw rare sport! Here were Virginia slaves, dancing jigs and clapping Juber, over a barrel of PERSIMMON BEER, to the notes of the banjo.—*Southern Sketches*, p. 98.

Juber up and Juber down,  
Juber all around de town,  
Juber dis and Juber dat,  
And Juber round de 'SIMMON vat.  
Hoe corn and hill tobacco,  
Get over double trouble, Juber, boys,  
Juber!  
—*Ibid*, p. 101.

Georgia negroes are looking forward with interest to a liberal yield of PERSIMMONS, the trees of which are now covered with blossoms.—*St. Louis Republican*, May 10, 1888.

—This tree and fruit have given rise to several popular colloquialisms.—To RAKE UP THE PERSIMMONS.—To pocket the stakes or spoils; an English slang equivalent would be "to pull in the pieces."—THE LONGEST POLE GETS THE MOST 'SIMMONS.—An obvious allusion to the dimensions of this tree which, though generally averaging about thirty feet in height, sometimes attains about double that size. Metaphorically this phrase is equivalent to saying that the strongest party gains the day.

—THE PERSIMMON ABOVE ONE'S HUCKLEBERRY is another quaintly sarcastic expression in allusion to the respective dimensions of the *persimmon* and *huckleberry*; the latter has a comparatively dwarfish, bush-like growth, whilst the *persimmon* occasionally reaches an extreme height of sixty feet. The expression, therefore, is synonymous with an avowal of disbelief in one's ability to perform, however apparently



easy, a given task or undertaking.

**PERSUASION.**—A slang equivalent for rank; occupation; class; views—and even sex, women being designated as of the female *persuasion*! A mere perversion of language, which, unhappily, is also very common in England. It is, however, a genuine Americanism.

**PERT END UP.**—A person who is *pert end up* is one who has recovered in spirits and cheerfulness after indisposition, etc.

**PERVADE, To.**—To pass through. Travellers *pervade* a town when making a temporary stay. The process of transition from the legitimate to the unorthodox meaning of the word is obvious, easy, but inexcusably vulgar.

**PESKILY.**—Confoundedly; plaguily; anything in fact that indicates intensity of feeling coupled with annoyance. An Americanism by reason of its more colloquial character; indeed, both *peskily* and *pesky*, are rarely heard in England nowadays. Thought to be a corruption of "pestilent."

Scared? says he, serves him right then; he might have known how to feel for other folks, and not funkify them so **PESKILY.**—*Sam Slick in England*, ch. 8.

**PETER, To, or To PETER OUT.**—To exhaust or be exhausted; to run or dribble out; to escape. Also at auction sales to run up prices.—See **PETER FUNK.**

After a long desert journey, the oxen become much **PETERED**; indeed, I may say they become altogether **PETERED**. Hence on the first good grass which they strike, they halt a few days, and allow the teams to graze undisturbed, which makes them all-a-setting again.—*Overland Monthly*.

On went the procession, and things were getting dull again, when somebody asked if they couldn't get up a song. A vocalist started a Republican campaign song to the tune of 'Baby Mine,' and it had a great success for about a minute and a half, and then the words **PETERED OUT.**—*New York Herald*, November 4, 1888.

When I started to Washington I took an Injin along to exhibit him. I give shows on the way. That darned Injin **PETERED OUT** of my hands at Oswego, N.Y. The people fed him so much that he fairly busted.—*Frank Leslie's Budget of Wit and Humor*.

The *Boston Herald* thinks the Hill boom is **PETERING OUT**. When the time comes for Mr. Hill to have a boom it will not **PETER**, but at present there is no boom. It is only a bladder tied on the end of a stick, and used by the clown of the *New York Sun* to inflict sundry harmless fillips during his circus performance.—*Missouri Republican*, February 15, 1888.

**PETER FUNK.**—Decoys at mock auctions are called *Peter Funks*. Hot-ten erroneously applies the term to a spurious auction or "knock out." It is an open question as to whether this name for a by-bidder was really borne by an individual.

**PETIT MISÈRE.**—In the game of *Boston (q.v.)*, to lose the whole of the twelve tricks after having discarded a card which is not to be shown. This is sometimes called "little misery." When any of the different *misères* are bid there is no trump during that lead.

**PETTIAUGER.**—A corruption of *PIRAGUA (q.v.)*.

**PETTICOAT TROUSERS.**—Wide, baggy trousers are so called in Massachusetts.

**PETTIFOG, To.**—A verb derived from *pettifogger*; to conduct legal business in a mean, paltry manner; or, to take up petty cases. The usage is not common, and is due entirely to newspaper license.

**PEWIT or PEWEE.**—This familiar name for the lapwing of Europe is, in America, applied to the *Sayornis fuscus*, the note in both cases being supposed to resemble the sound of the word *pewit*. The American variety is also called the **PHŒBE-BIRD** (*q.v.*).

**PHEASANT.**—The **RUFFLED GROUSE** (*q.v.*).

**PHEEZE, TO.**—To vex; to excite.—*See* **FEASE**.

**PHILADELPHIA LAWYER.**—The real or alleged reputation of Quaker "limbs of the law" appears to be world-wide. — "As smart as"— "that beats"— "he knows as much as a *Philadelphia lawyer*," are all expressions probably as well known in England as in America. The simile has been traced back to pre-revolutionary days, but why a *Philadelphia lawyer* should bear the palm for shrewdness and learning is not quite clear.

**PHILLIPENA.**—*See* **FILLIPEEN**.

**PHŒBE-BIRD** (*Sayornis fuscus*).—Otherwise called the **PEWIT** or **PEWEE**. It has no relation to the lapwing, its European namesake.

The **PHŒBE-BIRD**, with its cheery pee-wee, is already heard in the rural districts. In folklore the arrival of this early bird of passage is an omen that hard frosts are over, and that the farmer may proceed with confidence to his planting. Now it is known that they sail north on a March breeze, endure ice-making weather, and have no more relation to farming than a pewter half dollar has to trade. As nest-builders they exhibit taste in variation of the style of their nests and the furnishing materials. The fibre of bark answers for some of them to line their nests with, others use moss, hair or wool, and one is recorded to have built a nest entirely of corn silk. These birds have greatly improved their nests within the memory of man, which suggests that they are guided by reason instead of the stupid

instinct which is so often attributed to them. —*Norwich (Conn.) Bulletin*, 1888.

**PHYCE.**—*See* **FICE**.

**PICACHO.**—A peak or summit of a mountain standing out so distinctly as to form a landmark. The term is an augmentative of the Spanish *pico*, a peak.

**PICANINNY or PICKANINNY.**—Primarily a negro baby, but usage varies according to locality. Frequently used, in the North and throughout the West Indies, of any young child, it is, in the South, applied to colored children alone; a fact which speaks volumes as to the difference of opinion concerning the negro race, which exists in the localities named. *Picaninny* is also familiarly employed in speaking of one's self, as "this *picaninny*," i.e., "this child."

I've just come from Virginny,  
Dat good ole Southern land;  
I'm a simple **PICANINNY**,  
Although a contraband.

—*Negro Ballad*.

'Hallo,' says he, 'here's the devil to pay, and no pitch hot. Are you goin' to kill that boy? Here's a pretty hurra's nest; let me see one of you dare to lay hands on this **PICKANINNY**.'—*Sam Slick's Human Nature*, p. 59.

**PICAYUNE.**—The name in the Southern States for the Spanish half-real. The term, which is of Carib origin, having come down through the French *pecune*, is now used of anything small or mean, probably from the comparatively insignificant value of the coin in question.

Nearly all the newspapers and magazines are advertising for writers, reporters, and contributors. The *Daily Moonbeam* offers 25 dols. per column for matter from any of its former writers. The latter, however, are not likely to leave their present paying employments for any such **PICAYUNE** offers.—*The Epoch*, 1888.

Small articles are sold in the New Orleans market by the PICAYUNE or dime's worth. If you ask for a pound of figs, you will not be understood; but for a dime's worth, and they are in your hands in a trice.—*Sketches of New Orleans, New York Tribune.*

**PICK.**—A gauge of measurement in the cotton trade, a *pick* being a thread. Cotton cloth has so many *picks* to the inch.—To **PICK.**—When used in reference to the banjo or guitar, to *pick* means to play; a signification which may be compared with the French *pincer*.—To **PICK OFF.**—To kill by shooting, *i.e.*, so many men singled or *picked out*, so many men killed.

The act closes by the party **PICKING OFF** 200 Indians with unerring aim, and telling lies about catching fish.—*Texas Siftings*, July 7, 1888.

—To **PICK ON.**—To disturb; to nag.

Joseph White, of New Jersey, slept for five days and nights, and then jawed his wife for waking him up. He said she was always **PICKING ON** him when she saw him taking comfort.—*Detroit Free Press*, October 27, 1888.

—**PICK-ME-UP.**—A restorative usually of a spirituous kind. Indulged in too frequently they become "knock-me-downs."—**PICK UP.**—This applied to meals, *e.g.*, a *pick-up* dinner, is used to describe repasts of an *olla podrida* description.—To **PICK UP A ROOM** is a New England phrase for putting it in order.

**PICKEREL WEED** (*Pontideria cordata*).—A common wayside and ditch plant in the New England States.

**PIE.**—Americans follow the Old English usage and employ *pie* where we should now say "tart." In England it is game or meat *pie*, and apple or fruit tart; in the States *pie* is used in every instance.—**PIE-**

**PLANT.**—This curious name is given to rhubarb.

**PIECE, TO.**—A curious Pennsylvanian term, used of eating between meals.

**PIERT.**—See **PEART**.

**PIG.**—To GET THE WRONG PIG BY THE TAIL.—This is the Yankee equivalent of "to get the wrong sow by the ear." Variants are "to wake up the wrong passenger," and "to bark up the wrong tree."—**PIG-FISH.**—This is the name of a fish which, from its resemblance to a bird, has been called the SEA-ROBIN, while its grunting noise when caught is the source of its porcine appellation. It also goes by the name of flying-fish from its peculiar mode of motion.—**PIG NUT** (*Carya glabra* or *porcina*).—A small bitter hickory-nut is so called.—**PIG-PLUM**, otherwise HOG-PLUM (*q.v.*).—**PIG-WEED.**—A weed so-called from its *habitat* being near pigstyes.—**LESS THAN A PIG'S WHISTLE.**—A strange metaphor for a very short time.—**PIG-WICK.**—A species of duck found in Maryland.—**PIG-YOKE.**—In sea-slang a quadrant.

**PIGEON-BERRY.**—A New England name for the PARTRIDGE-BERRY (*q.v.*).

**PIGEON WOODPECKER.**—The **CLAPE** (*q.v.*).

**PIKE.**—A Californian name for a poor white from the Southern States.

The true **PIKE**, in the California sense of the word, is the wandering, gipsy-like, southern poor white. This person often lives with his family in a wagon; he rarely follows any steady industry; he is frequently a squatter on other people's lands; he owns a rifle, a lot of children and dogs, a wife, and, if he can read, a law-book; said a lawyer, describing this character to me; he moves from place to place, as the humor



seizes him, and is generally an injury to his neighbors. He will not work regularly; but he has a great tenacity of life, and is always ready for a law-suit. . . . When it was proposed to build a school-house in a village where there was none the PIKES objected, on the ground that the ringing of the school-house bell would scare the deer away. 'As soon as he hears a piano,' said an old resident, 'the PIKE sells out and moves away. . . . Well, the PIKE is the Chinaman's enemy. He does little work himself, and naturally hates the patient industry of the Chinese. Of course, if you ask him, he tells you that he is ruined by Chinese cheap labor.'—*Nordhoff's California*, p. 137.

—To PIKE (Cant).—To play cautiously and for small amounts, never advancing the value of the stake. In Old English cant, to run away, and it being the better part of valor and caution among thieves to decamp, the secondary modern meaning is probably, by a process of inversion, thus derived. Those who gamble in this fashion are called PIKERS.

**PILCH, To** (Cant).—To steal; rob; or filch—generally small and unconsidered trifles, such as pocket-handkerchiefs. Thought to be a corruption of "filch," a confusion having arisen as to the pronunciation of "p" and "f."

**PILE**.—A gambler's term for a good round sum, the meaning of which has been enlarged to signify a fortune. This is an old friend with new surroundings, Dr. Franklin, in *Poor Richard's Almanack*, having advised—

"Rash mortals, ere you take a wife,  
Contrive your *pile* to last for life."

—Hence, to MAKE ONE'S PILE, is to amass a fortune; and to GO ONE'S PILE, to spend the same.—To PUT ALL THE PILE ON, is said of anything very much fancied.

He heard several old miners, who had for many years been living a rough frontier life, discussing what they would do when they had MADE THEIR PILES, and could return

with riches to the States.—*Hotel Gazette*, 1888.

In that neighborhood resides a family named St. John, the father a retired real estate man, who has by lucky speculation MADE HIS PILE and held it. The mother is a woman who prides herself on birth, and is connected in that way with all the first families of the city.—*New York Mercury*, July 21, 1888.

**PILGARLIC** (Cant).—One's self. Thus a thief will inform a pal that *pilgarlic* was engaged in any given undertaking, the speaker meaning that he himself was the operator.

**PILGRIM**.—(1) A new arrival; a greenhorn. About equivalent to a TENDER FOOT (*q.v.*).—**PILGRIMS**.—A cattle breeder's term for cattle on the march.

The extraordinary severity of the weather proved too much for the cattle. This was especially the case with those herds consisting of PILGRIMS, as they are called—that is, of animals driven up on to the range from the South, and therefore in poor condition.—*Ranch Life in the Far West*.

**PILL** (Cant).—(1) A bore or conceited coxcomb. — (2) A bullet, *e.g.*, BLUE-PILL (*q.v.*).—**PILL-BOTTLE** (Cant).—A fire-arm, but more particularly applied to a revolver—a dispenser of physic, warranted easy in action and sure in effect.—**PILL-BOX** is a Texan variant, with which may also be compared MEAT-IN-THE-POT.

**PILLOW-BIER OR PILLOW-SHAM**.—A pillow case.

PILLOW SHAMS are going out of fashion; but other shams still hold their own.—*Abilene (Kansas) Gazette*, 1888.

**PIMPING**.—Small; pretty; mean. An English provincialism which still survives in the rural districts of New England.

**PIMPLE** (Cant).—The head. A very old cant term.

**PIMPLO.**—A Barbadian term for the PRICKLY PEAR. *Pimplo* is a corruption of "pin-pillow," an alternative name for the same fruit.

**PIN, To (Cant).**—To arrest. In English slang *to pin* means to drink, which in the long run is only a means by which a man is arrested in his career.

**PIN-BASKET (Cant).**—A baby; generally speaking, the term has reference to the youngest child in a family.

**PINCH.**—IN A PINCH, *i.e.*, in a "tight place"; hard-up. This term is of Western origin, as also is ON A PINCH—in an emergency. —**PINCH-BUG.**—An insect pest, also called PETZ KEEFER in Pennsylvania. —**To PINCH (Cant).**—To "ring the changes," *i.e.*, on pretence of changing coins of a high denomination; to substitute bad money for good.

**PINCHER.**—A term of political origin and usage, and applied to a legislative measure calculated to secure a pecuniary reward to those who are interested in its defeat.

**PINDERS.**—A Florida negro term for PEA-NUTS.—*See* GOOBERS.

**PINDLING.**—Unthrifty.

**PINE.**—A West Indian contraction for PINE-APPLE — now generally adopted in England. — **PINE BARRENS.**—In the South poor tracts of land covered with *pine* trees of a wretchedly stunted growth.—*See* BARRENS.

Although the largest portion of the country is covered with PINE BARRENS, and much of it extremely poor, yet there is also much upland, interval, and hammock land,

of the most excellent quality. . . . The borders of the watercourse, as well as the hammocks, are covered with thick woods of hard timber, tangled with innumerable vines. — *Williams's View of E. Florida* (1827), p. 6.

—**PINE KNOTS.**—Knotty chips or chunks of the *Pinus rigida*. These, when burning, give a brilliant light.

Then the bride was seated at her place in the best room—which was the kitchen—having a small table near, on which stood a steaming pitcher of the blackstrap and a tin pot. In the open fire-place blazed PINE KNOTS and light-wood, giving a genial brightness to the place, which was devoid of lamps or candles.—*Pinkerton's Mollie Maguires and Detectives*.

—**PINE NEEDLES.**—Fir cones.

Old grizzlies are extraordinarily cunning, and, though they cannot have had any extensive experience of traps, seem to divine just where those dangerous hidden jaws lie, beneath the innocent brown PINE-NEEDLES and bunch-grass.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

—**PINE-NUT (*Pinus edulis*).**—The edible nut of a variety of pine.

—**PINE-STRAW** or **PINE-TAGS.**—The annual castings of pine-trees.

—**PINE-TOP.**—In Maryland the name given to villainous whiskey, an allusion probable to its resemblance to turpentine. — **PINE-TREE MONEY.**—Money coined in Massachusetts in the seventeenth century, and so-called from its bearing a figure resembling a pine-tree.

The wide-awake citizens of Boston have been sadly bitten by a bogus issue of the old PINE-TREE SHILLING CURRENCY, got up by a smart Gothamite.—*American Notes and Queries*.

—**PINE-TREE STATE.**—The State of Maine, from its extensive pine forests. It is also called the LUMBER STATE from the occupation which the pine forests furnish to its inhabitants.

The good old PINE-TREE STATE is pretty well represented in this locality. The leading paper is edited by a former Maine man (Mr. Dingley, formerly of Lewistone), and

there is scarcely a town of any size in the State but what contains one or more Maine men.—*Boston Transcript*, 1888.

—PINERIES.—These, unlike the PINE-BARRENS of the South, are select woodlands in the North and North-west, from which comes the pick of timber used in the country.

—PINEY-WOODS.—The Southern name for pine-lands, *cf.*, PINE-BARRENS.

PINION.—See PIÑON.

PINKED BETWEEN THE LACINGS (Cant).

—Convicted of an offence through a witness's perjury. The derivation of this term is to be sought in the fact that in mediæval times an armed man was only vulnerable *between the lacings* of his armor.

PINKERTON AGENCY.—A well-known semi-official detective agency.

Experienced coal handlers from other points of the road will be employed under the protection of PINKERTON MEN and special policemen.—*Philadelphia Inquirer*, Feb. 22, 1888.

PINK ROOT (*Spigelia marilandica*).—

More popularly known as the CAROLINA PINK (*q.v.*).

PINK SAUCER.—A theatrical term for a special dye used in coloring "tights."

I remember when I first went into the business, I used to spend almost all my salary, twelve dols., on tights, shoes, and wigs. The most expensive kind I have worn cost about twenty dols. You can't wear them longer than three weeks. They are made of fine soft silk. I have often laundered my own flesh tights. They are colored with what we call PINK SAUCER in the profession, a kind of stuff you buy at the druggists.—*New York World*, July 22, 1888.

PINK-STERN.—The CHEBACCO BOAT (*q.v.*).

PINK TEA.—Whiskey—good, bad, and indifferent.

The Congressional committee for the investigation of the liquor traffic can enjoy a splendid season's enjoyment if there are any old-fashioned rounders among the members. It is a great question, and the committeemen are confronted with a great opportunity. From the PINK TEA in the Senate restaurant, such as frequently inspires the able and energetic Riddleberger, to the distilleries of old Kentucky, the investigators can find something of interest every day. Of course they will tell us of the relative merits of rye and bourbon.—*Missouri Republican*, Feb. 15, 1888.

PINKY.—A shortened form of PINK-STERN.—See CHEBACCO BOAT.

PIN MONEY (Cant).—The proceeds of prostitution on the part of a married woman. In London, immorality of this kind is called "taking in fancy work."

PINNIPE (Cant).—A crab. — PINNIPED is sideways; crab-fashion.

PINOLE.—A preparation of parched corn-meal, sugar, and spice. Also called COLD-FLOUR (*q.v.*). *Pinole* is the Spanish name.

It is a small party, but great in the requisite qualifications, and goes unencumbered with superfluities: no wheels, two or three mules apiece, and PINOLE, pemmican, and beef-dodgers for their principal support.—*Speech of Colonel Benton*, May 7, 1853.

PIÑON, PINION (*Pinus edulis*).—A variety of pine, the nuts of which are edible.

... Scrub cedars and PIÑONS upon the mesa slopes have furnished fuel.—*Captain Whipple's Explorations*, R. R. Survey, p. 66.

PINXTER, PINKSTER.—Whitsuntide. Of Dutch origin.—PINXTER BLUMACHIES.—Whitsuntide flowers, more especially applied in New York State to the SWAMP HONEY-SUCKLE.



**PIPE, To.**—To intercept; to waylay.

—**PIPE OF PEACE.**—See CALUMET.—**PIPE-LAYER.**—A trickster,

—**PIPE-LAYING.**—The fraudulent employment of fictitious voters, or those not legally qualified.

[Inman says] it arose from an accusation brought against the Whig party of this city (New York) some years ago, of a gigantic scheme to bring on voters from Philadelphia. The accusation was made by a notorious Democrat, of not very pure political character, who professed to have derived his information from the agent employed by the Whigs for the service. This agent had actually been employed by certain leaders of the Whig party, but on a service deemed legitimate and proper in the art of electioneering. He, however, turned traitor, and, as was alleged by the Whigs, concocted a plot with the notorious Democrat to throw odium upon the Whigs. A mass of correspondence was brought forward in proof, consisting mainly of letters written by the agent to various parties in New York, apparently describing the progress and success of his operations. In these letters, as if for the purpose of concealment, the form of a mere business correspondence was adopted,—the number of men hired to visit New York and vote being spoken of as so many yards of PIPE,—the work of laying down pipe for the Croton water being at that time in full activity. The Whig leaders were indicted on the strength of these pseudo revelations, and the letters were read in court; but the jury believed neither in them nor in the writer of them, and the accused were acquitted. The term PIPE-LAYING, however, was at once adopted as a synonym for negotiations to procure fraudulent votes.

Thus far but little has been done in the way of advancing the fortunes of aspiring candidates, but there are not a few who are PIPE-LAYING and marshalling forces for the fray when the conventions meet.—*San Francisco Weekly Examiner*, March 22, 1888.

**PIPSISSEWA** (*Chimaphila umbellata*).—

An Indian simple. Also known as PRINCE'S PRIDE and WINTERGREEN. This herb, the medicinal qualities of which are much esteemed, now forms part of the American pharmacopœia.

**PIRAGUA.**—Primarily a canoe formed out of a single large tree, this word is now used indiscriminately for small boats of any kind. Of Indian

derivation, the word is variously spelt—PERIAUGER, PERIAUGA, PETIAUGER, and a French form PIROGUE.

**PIRATE, To.**—To appropriate without making acknowledgment or payment. Usually applied in connection with the question of copyright.

Authors, some of whom work for nothing, are in competition with the cheapest as well as the best foreign authors, as publishers here can PIRATE foreign books and pay no copyright. Mr. Lowell said that in his boyhood there were but two American authors who could have supported themselves by writing, Cooper and Irving.—*American Humorist*, 1888.

**PISTAREEN.**—A coin, formerly current, of the value of one-fifth of a dollar. As they depreciated rapidly, the term *pistareen* like *PICAYUNE* (*q.v.*), became synonymous with small or mean, being used in the same way as ONE-HORSE (*q.v.*).

**PIT.**—Applied to fruits *pit* means the stone or kernel, being the literal translation of the Dutch word.

**PITA.**—The name of an agave, from which is obtained a fine fibre, which bears the same name as the plant—*pita*; it is used for sewing and kindred purposes. The coarser fibres of this plant have received the name of CABUYA.

**PITAHAYA** (*Cereus pitajaya*).—The INDIAN FIG. This luscious fruit is borne by a monster cactus, a native of New Mexico.

**PITCH.**—To PITCH TOO STRONG, or TO PITCH IT STRONG, are both of Western origin, and are indicative of strenuous application or effort; or, in reference to narrations, to talk exaggeratingly or boastinglly.

A variant is TO PITCH IT WILD when a story passes all legitimate bounds.

**PITCHER.**—American for jug. "Give me the milk-*pitcher*," would be the form used where an Englishman asks for the milk-jug.

**PITCHING TRACK.**—In the Far Northwest, an Indian trail.

**PIT-PAN.**—A Central American and West Indian term for a peculiar build of canoe—long, narrow, flat-bottomed, and trough-like, the edges being thin, flat, and projecting.

**PITY.**—TO THINK A PITY is an odd form for "to take pity." The usage, "it is pity of him," as used by Scott in *Marmion*, in the sense of "he is to be pitied," is also colloquial.

**PIZARRO.**—A New England corruption of piazza.

**PLACE, To.**—When applied to persons, this means to call to mind the *place* of birth.—TO BREAK OUT IN A FRESH PLACE, or SPOT.—To make a new departure; to commence *de novo*.

Every once in a while Dr. McGlynn BREAKS OUT IN A FRESH PLACE and startles the public with some iconoclastic remark. His latest assertion is to the effect that he is not at all anxious to be buried in Calvary Cemetery.—*Texas Siftings*, October 6, 1888.

**PLACER.**—The original signification of this Spanish word was simply a locality where gold was to be found in drift-sand. Now, however, it is the colloquial synonym of anything valuable, whether a mine or other commercial speculation. Thus, the present work will, with the reader's permission, be designated

a philological *placer*—at all events that is the author's devout desire in more senses than one. Opinions vary as to whether *placer* is derived from *plaza*, a place; or *placer*, pleasure.—TO PLACER.—In New Orleans couples are said to *placer* when living together as husband and wife without having gone through the ceremony of marriage.—PLACER DIGGINGS.—Localities where gold is found mixed with surface earth.—PLACER MINING is the name given to the search for precious metals, when carried on in ravines or gulches. Heavy rains wash down the grains of gold from the mountain sides into the valleys, and the surface earth simply requires washing in order to obtain it.

**PLAIN PEOPLE.**—A negro term for white folks—a tit-for-tat in connection with the term COLORED PEOPLE as applied by whites to those of negro race.

**PLANING MACHINE.**—An American invention. The machine is, as its name implies, a plane worked by steam or other motive power.

**PLANK.**—*See* PLATFORM.—TO PLANK DOWN or UP.—A term which, when applied to money, is synonymous with to pay, or, in betting, to stake.—PLANK-ROAD.—A primitive form of road-making. (See also in this connection CORDUROY-ROAD, in which, instead of planks, roughly-hewn logs are used.) At sea-side resorts, *plank* or BOARD-WALKS (*q.v.*) constitute the "Marine Parade."—PLANKED SHAD.—A shad fastened to a plank and roasted. This mode of cooking is said to be much esteemed by epicures.

**PLANT, To.**—A Western equivalent of "to bury."

'Now if we can get you to help PLANT him—' 'Preach the funeral discourse? Assist at the obsequies?' 'Obs'quies is good. Yes. That's it; that's our little game.' *Mark Twain's The Innocents at Home*, p. 20.

**PLANTAIN** (*Musa paradisiaca*).—A well-known West Indian bread-stuff. Peeled, roasted in hot ashes, and eaten with butter when quite warm, the *plantain* is a most delicious substitute for ordinary bread. *Plantain* comes from the Spanish *platano*.

**PLANTATION**.—In the West Indies and Southern States the name given to estates or large farms. The term was primarily associated with properties, upon which slave labor was used. In the West Indies, the names given to *plantations* were sometimes very curious, especially in colonies originally settled by the French and Dutch. A few examples must suffice.

Beau Voisin, the good or pretty neighbor; Belle Plaine, handsome level field; Bestandigheid, constancy, consistency; Blankenburg, the White Castle, the name of an estate in Holland; Chateau Margot, Chateau Margot N.W. of Bordeaux; De Kinderen, the children; De Willem, the William; Goedland, good land; Goedverwagting, good expectation of hope; Groenveldt, green field; Guiderland, province of Holland on the Zuyderzee; Haag's Bosch, the park (bush) at the Hague; Haarlem, an inland town near Amsterdam; Hague, the metropolis and seat of government in Holland; Hamburg, name of one of the Hansiate cities in Germany; Herstelling, restoration, recovering from ruin; Hoff-van-Aurich, the Court of Aurich, the name of a city in East Vriesland, Hanover; Hoff-van-Holland, the Court of Holland; Huis-t'-Dieren, a famous country seat, near Amsterdam, in Holland; Klien Pouderoeyen, a baronial castle in Holland; La Belle Alliance, the Friendly League, of Waterloo notoriety; La Bonne Intention, the good intention; La Bonne Mère, the good mother; La Grange, the barn—name of a Dutch farm; La Heureuse Aventure, the lucky adventure; La Jalousie, jealousy; La Parfaite Harmonie, perfect harmony; La Penitence, penitence, penance; La Prudence, prudence; La Retraite, the retreat; Le Désir, the desire; Le Ressouvenir, the recollection; L'Esper-

ance, hope; Malgré Tout, in spite of all; Ma Retraite, my retreat; Mes Delices, my delight (pleasure); Met-en-Meerzorg, with more and more care; Mon Repos, my resting place; Nonpareil, the unrivalled; Noigedacht, never thought; Nouvelle Flanders, New Flanders, Belgium; Nismes; manufacturing city, Department of Guard, France; Onderneeming, undertaking, enterprise; Pouderoeyen, a baronial castle in Holland; Providence, Providence; Ruimveld, extensive field; Sans Souci, without care; Schoon Ord, beautiful spot; Stanvastighied, constancy, consistency; Tenez Ferme, hold fast; Toevlugt, refuge; Turkeyen, Turkey; Tusschen de Vrienden, between the friends; Uitvlugt, a flight to a country house—a country seat; Vergenøgen, contentment, pleasure; Versailles, Versailles, near Paris; Vilvorden, a village, near Brussels, in Belgium; Vive-la-Force, glory to power; Vreed-en-Hoop, peace and hope; Vreed-en-Vriend-schap, peace and friendship; Vriesland, province in Holland; Vryheid's Lust, liberty's delight; Waterloo, the famous village, Belgium; Wissell Vollegheid, vicissitude, liable to change; Witkomst, result, revenue; Zeeburg, castle on the sea-shore; Zeelandia, name of a province in Holland; Zeelugt, sea breeze, sea air; Zorg, care, anxiety.

**PLANTER**.—(1) In the Southern States and West Indies the proprietor of an estate, and, in the case of absentees, the manager.—(2) A Newfoundland fisherman.—(3) *Planters* were formerly the first settlers in a colony, and the term was especially given to the founders of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay to distinguish them from the Pilgrim Fathers, who founded Plymouth Colony.

**PLAT, TO**.—To lay out in sections or plots.

**PLATE OF MEAT** (Cant).—This term, which in English rhyming slang stands for the feet, in America does duty as the name, among thieves, for a street or highway. The connection is obvious.

**PLATFORM**.—A declaration of principles, political, religious, or otherwise. This term is of good Old



English descent, and has never quite gone out of use in the Mother Country. Its employment, however, has received fresh impetus across the Atlantic, and subsequently of late years in England also, in a political sense. Thus one hears of the Republican, Democrat, Liberal, Conservative, or Home Rule *platforms*, *i.e.*, the principles advocated by each and all of those parties. The sub-divisions of a party programme are spoken of as its *PLANKS*, American love of metaphor having led to this somewhat literal application. So marked is this tendency that the metaphorical *platform* is split up, not only into planks, but sometimes into *SPLINTERS*.

The Democratic National Convention will be held in New York City. Mr. Cleveland will be re-nominated by acclamation. His message will be his *PLATFORM*.—*Louisville Courier Journal*, February, 1888.

**PLAY.**—YOU CAN'T PLAY THAT ON ME, *i.e.*, I am not to be thus deceived; I am not a tool or cat's-paw. This catch-phrase is of Shakspearian descent.

YOU WOULD PLAY UPON ME; you would seem to know my stops; you would pluck out the heart of my mystery; you would sound me from my lowest note to the top of my compass; and there is much music, excellent voice in this little organ; yet cannot you make it speak. 'Sblood, do you think I am easier TO BE PLAYED ON than a pipe? Call me what instrument you will, though you can fret me, YOU CANNOT PLAY UPON ME.—*Hamlet III., 2.*

—TO PLAY ON VELVET (Cant).—To stake the money won from the bank.—TO BE PLAYED OUT.—To be exhausted; ruined. A gambler's term which has come into general use. Compare with French *passé*.  
—TO PLAY OFF.—This also in the sense of to make a start, is borrowed from the card-table.—  
TO PLAY 'POSSUM.—To deceive; to mislead. The 'possum when

run close will simulate death, its imitation being so perfect as sometimes to deceive dogs.—**PLAY-SPELL.**—A time for recreation or amusement.

**PLAYA.**—This Spanish word, meaning the sea-shore or beach, is in the South-west applied to vast level plains, the surface of which is of a saline nature. In the North these tracts of country are called *SALT* or *WATER PRAIRIES*.

**PLAZA.**—An open space or public square. This term is one of the frequently met with, and permanent traces of former Spanish occupation left in the common speech.

**PLEASURE, TO.**—In North Carolina, to please.

**PLEBESKIN.**—A West Point term for the fatigue-jacket of the English cadet.

West Point, N.Y., July 21.—The fourth class entered camp on Monday, but are still wearing their *PLEBESKINS*. They will don their dress coats the first week in August, when they enter the battalion.—*New York World*, July 22, 1888.

**PLEURISY ROOT (*Asclepias tuberosa*).**—A gentle tonic.

**PLUG.**—(1) A tall silk hat. Also **PLUG-HAT.** —(2) A horse. Also **PLUG-HORSE.** —(3) A man.

Cæsar was the implacable foe of the aristocracy, and refused to wear a *PLUG HAT* up to the day of his death. Sulla once said, before Cæsar had made much of a showing, that some day this young man would be the ruin of the aristocracy.—*Eclectic Magazine*, 1888.

In the first race a *PLUG* named Cator was the favorite, but another *PLUG* named Battledore won, whereupon some of the painted women screamed with delight, and others, in shrill tones, anathematized the jockey who rode the *PLUG* they had backed.—*Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, April 22, 1888.

The Gould and Curry claim comprised 1,200 feet, and it all belonged originally to the two men whose names it bears. Mr. Curry owned two-thirds of it, and he said that he sold it out for 2,500 dollars in cash and an old PLUG HORSE, that ate up his market value in hay and barley in seventeen days by the watch.—*Mark Twain's The Innocents at Home.*

—PLUGGED.—Coins are *plugged* when counterfeit.

Ticket Agent—Can't sell you a ticket for that quarter; it's PLUGGED.

Humorous Texan—Then take in your sign, if you haven't got Tickets for All Quarters.—*Texas Siftings*, November 3, 1888.

—PLUG-UGLIES.—A gang of Baltimore rowdies.—*See* ASHLANDERS.

If the Dead Rabbit thinks he slays,  
Or the PLUG-UGLY think he's slain,  
They do but pave the subtle ways

I've trod, and mean to tread again.

—*Parody on Emerson's Brahma, New York Evening Post.*

Blood-tubs and PLUG-UGLIES, and others  
galore,

Are sick for a thrashing in sweet Baltimore;  
Be jabbers! that same I'd be proud to inform  
Of the terrible force of an Irishman's arm.

—*Song of the Irish Legion.*

PLUM.—All berries are called *plums* in New England.—Used as an adjective, and sometimes spelt *plumb*, it has the meaning of quite; exactly; directly; in which case it is an Old English survival. Popularly colloquial it is met with in a variety of connections.

'An' I 'clare,' avowed Mrs. Brand to S'leeny, 'I are PLUM' surprised by myseff, I b'en cryin' fur that ar critter like she war my own kin. But she war so sorter bidable an' decent an' done the little trick so decent, ayfter all! I sw'ar some folkses don' git no fair show in this world!'—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

I'm awful fond o' po'try—jus' PLUMB crazy ovah it. Mistah John P. Irish he makes heaps o'f t' in his papah. He writ one awful pritty pome? 'Twuz 'bout a little child that died, an' it wuz this way: 'Dearest Sallie, thou hast left us, an' thy loss we deeply feel.' Don't you think you could make some pritty music to go 'long' o' that, Miss B.? to sort o' sing it like?—*San Francisco Weekly Examiner*, 1888.

—PLUM-CENTRE OR PLUMB-CENTRE.—A Western term in shooting at a mark, equivalent to making a bull's-eye.—PLUM-MUSS.—Plums which when boiled and mashed are rolled out into layers and are then allowed to dry.

PLUMED KNIGHTS:—A Republican electioneering organization. The appellation arose out of an epithet applied by Robert Ingersoll to Mr. Blaine, the Republican candidate in the Presidential election of 1884. He was then referred to as the *Plumed Knight* of debate.

Just as the longshoremen passed, Mr. James G. Blaine appeared at the north-west corner window of the second floor of the hotel and a band came by playing 'Should auld acquaintance be forgot.' Right above his head on the top story a window had been draped in black, and in the window were two democratic ladies, who did not know that the PLUMED KNIGHT was beneath them.—*New York Herald*, November 4, 1888.

PLUNDER.—A term in the South and West for baggage, personal effects, or goods. In this sense of baggage the term may be traced to the Dutch or Flemish, and is allied to the German *plunder*.

One Sunday afternoon, two long dug-outs, loaded with PLUNDER, stopped at the cabin, which was than uninhabited, and shortly afterwards smoke was seen and several persons to be moving around. This was the family and property of Hank Harris.—*Lynch Law in the Sucker State* (1873).

PLUNK INTO, To.—To jump into; to decamp hastily from one place to another.

The mule, seein' th't he couldn't ketch Gunderman that way, turned an' went back t'other way 'round the schoolhouse to head him off, but b' that time the ol' man had PLUNKED INTER a bar'l th't stood at one corner o' the buildin' to ketch rainwater in, thinkin' th't the mule 'd slide on by. But the mule were sober enough not to be fooled that way, an' drunk enough to be bound to hev all the fun he k'd skeer up that night.—*Ed. Mott in Chicago Herald*, 1888.

**POACH, To.**—In New England, to churn up mud by repeated passing to and fro. Cattle *poach*, when treading on soft ground or snow.

**POCASON.**—A swamp. This word is current in North Carolina and also farther South, and is derived from the Indian vernacular. Cf. CYPRESS BRAKE, to which it is very similar.

**POCCOON OR PUCCOON** (*Sanguinaria canadensis*).—This is the Indian name for the BLOOD-ROOT (*q.v.*).

**POCKET.**—(1) In mining for gold, when a quantity of the precious metal is found accumulated in one place, it is termed a *pocket*.—(2) The extreme Southern part of the State of Indiana, from its shape, which is supposed to bear a resemblance to a *pocket*.—POCKET BOOK DROPPER, POCKET BOOK DROPPING.—See DROP-GAME under DROP.—POCKET PISTOL.—A spirit flask.

Unsuspecting and thirsty New Yorker (travelling in Maine): 'Excuse me, sir; do you carry a POCKET-PISTOL?' Native: 'Cert, pard (produces the article), 'Wan' ter use it?' New Yorker: 'I d-didn't mean that k-kind. I meant a flask.' Native: 'Oh, you mean what we call a hypodermic inspirator. I've got one, but it ain't loaded fer free gifts. —*Judge*, Feb. 2, 1888.

**PODGE, To.**—See TO POACH.

**POGGY** (*Pagrus argyrops*).—The Indian name of this fish, Mishescuppaug, has been strangely corrupted according to locality. It appears in Rhode Island under the guise of SCUP, while in New York it is known as *poggy*, FAUGIE, or PORGIE.

**POHAGEN OR PAUHAGEN.**—See BONY FISH.

**POINT.**—A cant term among brokers, signifying private information about

stocks, etc., upon which speculation is based. This meaning has been enlarged, and *point* is now generally used among all classes of the community to mean any information of an accurate description. The nearest English equivalent is the slang word "tip."—See POINTER.—Besides this signification, *point* has another meaning in commercial circles which can best be expressed as the unit of change in the market rate of any given commodity, whether gold or cotton; it is not, however, as a rulesynonymous with per cent.; thus we get such terms as a *point* rise.—BOILED DOWN TO A POINT.—A simile denoting a reduction to a bare statement of fact; the gist of anything.

BOILED DOWN TO A FINE POINT bondsmen are in demand.—*Pittsburg Times*, January 26, 1888.

—Yet another meaning attaches to the word *point*, one which is pretty familiar to English ears, as when the *points* of a horse are spoken of, *i.e.*, its special characteristics. The American all-occasion response will doubtless be familiar to readers of Bret Harte:—"I don't see no *pints* about that thar frog more nor about any other frog in partickler."

**POINTER.**—(1) This is more generally colloquial than POINT (*q.v.*), for an item of reliable information.—(2) Among ranchmen, a herdsman who rides at the head of a straggling herd of cattle when on the march.

There is a big POINTER for those gentlemen who cannot restrain their sporting proclivities in these sentences.—*Denver Republican*, 1888.

A client of mine placed in my hands several accounts for collection, and I sent my man Friday out at the end of every week, when I supposed the long-winded fellows received their salaries, and endeavored to collect the sums outstanding. In some cases the collector found it very difficult to



meet the men he wanted. They were either out, sick, or engaged. At length, tiring of the ill-success attending the business, I hit upon the idea of addressing the employers, and I concocted the following:—'Dear Sir,—If you will kindly send to me Mr. — (who has been mentioned to me as a very discreet young man) to my office, No. — Broady, I will give him a **POINTER** that will be of great benefit to you in your business.'—*New York Herald*, November 4, 1884.

On the march the mighty herd sometimes strings out miles in length, and then it has **POINTERS**, who ride abreast at the head of the column.—*Overland Monthly*, 1887.

**POISON.**—**NOMINATE YOUR POISON!**—This is considered a civil way of asking a man, when inviting him to drink, what he will take—an expression which has doubtless originated in the fact that much of the liquor sold was not misnamed when dubbed *poison*.

**POKE.**—(1) For pocket, *poke* is more frequently heard in America than in England, but it can hardly be called a distinctive Americanism. —(2) In New England, a machine to prevent unruly beasts from leaping fences, consisting of a yoke with a pole inserted pointing forward. —(3) See **POKE-BERRY**, of which *poke* is a curtailment. —(4) A bore, generally in the sense of laziness and dawdling. —**TO POKE.**—To put a poke on.—See **POKE.** —(2) **POKE-BERRY** (*Phytolacca decandra*).—The popular names of this plant are very numerous. Its Indian name is **PO-CAN**, while in New England it is called the **PIGEON-BERRY**, being also known as **COCUM** and **GARGET**. The young shoots are edible, being eaten like asparagus; its root is used medicinally for emetic purposes, whilst its berries form not only a favorite food for caged birds, but also afford a rich purple dye. James K. Polk, President of the United States in 1845, was made the subject of punning allusion in con-

sequence of the similarity in sound between his name and that of this common berry, banners and other emblems being stained with its juice in his honor.

**POKELOKEN.**—A marsh. This Indian term retains its hold upon popular usage in the woods and forests of Maine and New Brunswick.

**POKER.**—(1) A favorite game of cards, and as universally played in America as is whist in England. —(2) Webster also defines *poker* as a child's word for any frightful object, especially in the dark; a bugbear. *Pokker* is an old Danish word for the devil. —**POKERISH.**—Frightful; causing fear; especially to children. —**POKEY.**—Dull; stupid.

**POLICY, TO.**—To gamble with the numbers of lottery tickets.

**POLINKA OR POLINKE.**—A beverage made by mixing a gallon of cheap whiskey and a keg of beer together, with other foreign and nauseating ingredients.

In all about two dozen people lived in the house, most of them men. Yesterday they all came to Hazleton, and returned home drunk about six o'clock in the evening. They then indulged freely in **POLINKI**, a mixture of bad beer and worse whiskey.—*New York World*, February 14, 1888.

**POLITICAL CAPITAL.**—This term, now common to the cant of politics on both sides of the Atlantic, is of American origin. *Political capital* consists of any event in the career of a candidate for election which can be used in furthering or opposing his candidature. Incidents which tell in a man's favor constitute part of the *political capital* of his supporters; those to his detriment are, on the contrary, the stock-in-trade of his opponents.

**POLITICATE, To.**—To make a trade of politics—a common form of rascality to the detriment of true progress.

**POLLACK** (*Merlangus purpureus* and *M. carbonarius*).—An important food-fish largely found in the waters of Massachusetts and Connecticut. *Pollack* is the popular name in New England.

**POLLIWOG.**—A tadpole; a factitious name of long standing. In English provincial usage it appears as "polliwag," which is set down by Forby as a corruption of "periwig." Other authorities, however, incline to the view that *polliwag* or *polliwog* are merely attempts to express by sounds the idea of the wriggling motion characteristic of tadpoles.

**POLT, POLTER.**—A blow. Also to **POLT**; to beat; to deal blows. Both noun and verb are Old English forms, now quite obsolete in the Mother Country, but still colloquial in New England and the South. *Ex.*, "*Polt* him well!" *i.e.*, "give him a good thrashing."

**POLYGAMATICAL.**—An alternative form in America to "polygamoris."

**POMME-BLANCHE** and **POMME DES PRAIRIES.**—Names given by early French settlers to the BREAD ROOT (*q.v.*). Other appellations are KAMAS ROOT and INDIAN TURNIP (*q.v.*).

**POMPION.**—An old form for "pumpkin."

**POMPION BERRY.**—The HACKBERRY (*q.v.*).

**POND.**—*Pond*, in England, is generally applied to small pieces of

water by the roadside, in a field, or other restricted space, and the nearest approach to what is understood in America by a *pond* is a "mere." The latter word is rarely heard across the Atlantic. An American *pond* is, in reality, a small lake.—To **POND** is to accumulate water in a *pond*.

**PONE.**—Indian corn or maize-meal bread, with which is often mixed eggs, milk, and other enrichments. *Pone* comes from the Indian dialecticism *ponap*, the derivative having been in use from the time of earliest settlement.

Two year ago they ketched the thief, 'n seein' I wuz inncerent,  
They ject uncorked an' le' me run, an' in my stid the sinner sent  
To see how he liked pork 'n' **PONE** flavored with wa'nut saplin',  
An' narry social priv'ledge but a one-hoss, starn-wheel chaplin.

—*Biglow Papers*.

'Yes, who was ye?' inquired a woman as she laid aside her snuff-stick to stand up. 'Ye was pore an' shuckless an' low-down, Joe Williams, only a few weeks ago. Yer hull famly was b'arfut, an' the best ye had to eat was b'ar meat an' **PONES**. Ye drank mo' whisky than all the men put together, an' ye never had a second shirly to yer back!' —*Detroit Free Press*, August, 1888.

**PONY.**—(1) A "crib"; a "BOHN" (*q.v.*); a translation. — (2) A draught of beer.—*See* SCHOONER.

'I'm on the inside track,' said a **PONY** of beer as it went galloping down a man's throat.—*New York Journal*, August, 1885.

—To **PONY.**—To use a crib, or translation.—To **PONY UP.**—To pay; to settle accounts by the payment of money due. *Pony* was an old flash term for money, and in sporting slang is still used to signify £25. — **PONY-PURSE.** — An impromptu "purse" or collection. — **PONY-RIDER.**—An agent of the **PONY EXPRESS.**—*See* EXPRESS.

In a little while all interest was taken up in stretching our necks and watching for the

**PONY-RIDER**—the fleet messenger who sped across the continent from St. Joe to Sacramento, carrying letters nineteen hundred miles in eight days! Think of that for perishable horse and human flesh and blood to do! The **PONY-RIDER** was usually a little bit of a man, brimful of spirit and endurance. No matter what time of the day or night his watch came on, and no matter whether it was winter or summer, raining, snowing, hailing, or sleeting, or whether his beat was a level straight road or a crazy trail over mountain crags and precipices, or whether it led through peaceful regions or regions that swarmed with hostile Indians, he must be always ready to leap into the saddle and be off like the wind! There was no idling-time for a **PONY-RIDER** on duty. He rode fifty miles without stopping, by daylight, moonlight, starlight, or through the blackness of darkness—just as it happened.—*Mark Twain's Roughing It.*

**POOL ISSUES, To.**—To join forces; to act in unison. Now common on both sides of the Atlantic, but while in England its use is generally confined to large undertakings, in America it is employed colloquially by everybody. Even a shoeblack is said to have *pooled issues* with a poodle trained to rub against and soil the footgear of pedestrians in order to bring custom to its owner.

An undertaker and a grave-digger in Hungary **POOLED** their **ISSUES** and poisoned off fourteen people before their plan was discovered. They were doing so much business that the jealousy of others was aroused, and a watch set upon them.—*Detroit Free Press*, 1888.

Kansas City is to have two base-ball clubs this season. They had better **POOL** their **ISSUES** and get one that can win a game occasionally.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, March 7, 1888.

Something novel in the experience of Western towns is recorded in Kansas. The people of the village of Mertilla have decided to **POOL** their **ISSUES** with another place. West Plains, ten miles away, and Mertilla will cease to exist. So far the hegira includes two general stores, a grocery, a hotel, a livery stable, and a newspaper office.—*Boston Daily Globe*, 1888.

**POOQUAW.**—A Nantucket name for the round or hard clam. Also **QUAHAUG**. Both forms are thought

to have their origin in one or other of the Indian names—*poquawhock*, *pocquen*.

**POOR** for "lean," occurs in Middleton's plays. Modern English usage, however, rather restricts the employment of this word, in the case of meat, to an article of indifferent quality; in England *poor* meat need not necessarily be lean meat, but in America the term *poor* merely implies leanness.—**POOR COOT.**—*See COOT.*—**POOR FOLKSY.**—In the South when anything is described as a *poor folksy* arrangement the idea of poverty is conveyed.—**POOR WHITES.**—Also **WHITE TRASH**, **POOR WHITE FOLKS**, **MEAN WHITES**, **POOR TRASH**, etc. One of the most painful social problems of the South and the West Indies, indeed of all former slave holding countries, is the condition of the *poor whites*. An indigent white population side by side with a preponderatingly large black element would appear from experience to be a social impossibility. At all events it is an anomaly. In tropical climates especially, apart from false shame concerning manual labor, which is generally relegated to colored hands, there is the natural disinclination and incapacity of Europeans to undergo hard toil. Class distinctions, too, work adversely to them; the rich whites will have none of them, while they themselves are naturally antagonistic to the black people who, in speaking of them, use the more approbrious term already quoted, and the natural consequence is isolation, repression, and the inevitable concomitant, sooner or later, of decay and extinction.—A recent writer thus specially describes the *poor whites* of the Southern States.



Having secured this information, Bob went on, descending the cliff to the valley through which Broad Run rattled its shallow waters—a valley so broken and rugged as to render it almost unfit for cultivation. This glen was settled, as such regions are wont to be, by a race of POOR WHITEYS, or rather by a mixture of people belonging to two stocks originally different. The one race was descended from the lowest of the nomads, vagrants, and other poverty-stricken outcasts that had been spirited away from England by means legal and illegal, to be sold for a long term into bondage in the American colonies; the other, from the roughest wing of the great Scotch-Irish immigration of the last century—the hereditary borderers who easily fought their way into the valleys and passes of the Alleghantes. Equally thriftless in their habits, and equally without any traditions of their origin, members of these two tribes mingled easily. The people in whom the Scotch-Irish blood preponderates are more given to violence, but their humor, their courage, and their occasional bursts of energy indicate that they have a chance of emerging from barbarism; while the POOR WHITEYS of English descent are most of them beyond the reach of evolution, foreordained to extinction by natural selection, whenever the pressure of over-population shall force them into the competition for existence.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

—POOR WHITE FOLKSY.—In the manner peculiar to POOR WHITES.—*See* POOR FOLKSY.—POOR WILL.—A Western variation of "whip-poor-will" from a supposed curtailment in the note of the species found on the plains.

At nightfall the POOR-WILLS begin to utter their boding call from the wooded ravines back in the hills; not whip-poor-will, as in the East, but with two syllables only.—*Ranch Life in the Far West*.

POORTAAL.—An ante-room; lobby; or passage. From the Dutch, and in use in settlements of Dutch descent.

POP.—Young America's mode of address to fathers.

'Why, he's the greatest curiosity we have.'

'Indeed!'

'Sure POP. He understands all about the Interstate Commerce law.—*Boston Courier*, 1838.

POPCORN.—*See* under CORN.—To POPCORN.—To roast Indian corn.—*See* POPCORN under CORN.—POPEYED.—A Southern term for a person with protruding eyes.

POPULAR.—A Southern name for the TULIP-TREE (*q.v.*).

POP'LAR, POPULAR.—In New England a popular man is a conceited bumpitious individual. A Yankee simile runs:—"As pop'lar as a hen with one chicken." These variations in American and English usages are sometimes the cause of extremely awkward situations on the part of Englishmen visiting the States, or, conversely, of Americans visiting England. Compare with CUNNING, CLEVER, etc.

POPPER.—An enlarged form of "pop"—an English slang term for a pocket pistol.

Everybody tuck Christmas, especially the niggers, and sich carryin'-on, sich dancin' and singin'—and shooting POPPERS and sky-rockets you never did see.—*Major Jones's Courtship*.

POPPY-COCK.—Bombast; tall talk; gasconade; *e.g.*, "Oh! that's all poppy-cock," *i.e.*, "stuff and nonsense." A term of contemptuous incredulity and disgust.

POP-SQUIRT.—A jackanapes; an insignificant "puppy."

POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY.—The fundamental principle of democracy—the right of the people to self-government.

PORGY.—*See* POGGY.

PORK AND BEANS.—The American national dish.—PORK RINGS.—*See* RINGS.—PORK-SCRAPS.—What,

in England, as applied to roasted pork, is known as "crackling."

**PORKOPOLIS.**—Cincinnati. This city is, perhaps, the largest centre of the pork raising industry in the States. Also called **QUEEN CITY** and **PARIS OF AMERICA**.

Other quarrels of almost equal bitterness raged between various members of the press; but since Cincinnati ceased to be **PORKOPOLIS** and became the **Paris of America**, her editors have become as mutually courteous as members of the United States senate.—*American Humorist*, August, 1888.

**PORTAGE.**—A strip of land between water-ways over which boats and *impedimenta* are carried.

We came to a promontory, and the Indian ran the canoe ashore. I could not see why he did this, unless he expected to find seal in the woods. He said: 'PORTAGE. Heap good noodi-quoddy.' To have such a sentence as that fired at a man as he enters the woods with two strange Indians is not soothing. He loaded the canoe on the shoulders of the squaw, strapped the gun to her back, and gave her the paddles to carry. He bore his share of the heat and burden of the day by carrying the harpoon, which weighed about a pound and a half. Now I knew why he brought his wife with him. We went up a hill and through woods for half a mile, pushing through dense undergrowth in some places and over fallen trees and rocks in others. We emerged from this on to the beach. We had crossed the land end of the promontory to save paddling around a distance of about six miles.—*J. C. Knox's Devil of a Trip*.

The word, of French derivation, has now secured a permanent place in the language—being used inter-changeably with **CARRY** (*q.v.*), its equivalent. — To **PORTAGE**. —To carry or convey boats and outfit overland.

We **PORTAGED** the boats around the falls the next day, getting them out of the water and upon wagons by dint of much tugging and lifting, with the assistance of the entire population. By the time we had travelled twelve miles of rolling country and had gotten the wagons down the precipitous banks of a coule leading to the river and launched the boats it was 2 o'clock, and we

were still twenty-four miles from Benton.—*Century Magazine*, 1837.

**PORTRESS.** — A female porter or janitor.

The man came rushing upstairs to say that a child of the **PORTRESS** had been seriously injured in the streets at some distance from the house.—*American Humorist*, Aug., 1888.

**POSEY YARD.** — A flower garden attached to a dwelling house.— See **GARDEN**. "Posey" is, of course, the Old English term for a bouquet or bunch of flowers; and "yard" is, in reality, derived from the same root as garden. Procter, in one of his notes concerning American English, gave the following very interesting piece of philology.

It is hardly necessary to tell the philological reader that the words garden, yard, and orchard are closely akin—orchard, however, being a compound—ort-yard or wort-yard. The following series of words may be worth noticing—it includes, however, but a few of the words akin in divers languages to our yard and garden:—Eng.: Garden, garth, yard, or-chard. (Greensward must not be confounded with these words, as if greensward; it is green-sward, sward being an old name for skin or rind.) Saxon: *Geard, ort-geard, wyrt-geard*. Old English: *Gearth*. Gothic: *Gards, awrti-gards*. German: *Garten*. Low German: *garden*. French: *jardin*. Old French: *Gardien*. Danish: *Gaard, urtgaard*. Icelandic: *garther*. Latin: *Hortus*. Greek: *Chortos*. The same root is found in guard, guardian, gird, girdle, ward, warden, and other kindred words. Yard the measure of length, yard in yard-arm, *goad, gad, hasta* (Lat.), and many other words, some of which have no apparent association with guarding or with girding or girdling, belong to the same family.

**POSSE.**—A company; a number of individuals forming a party. Far more colloquial in America than in England.

We divided into two **POSSES**, each following the main highway that Ballard would travel in search of Anderson. Not meeting him, we congregated in a thicket almost in sight of his residence, and lay in ambush until he came down the road in plain view.—*Missouri Republican*, March 4, 1888.

By this time the Hoffman family was fully aroused, and two of the brothers, including the mayor, went gunning for Hogan, and surrounded his house. The citizens telegraphed for aid, and a sheriff and posse were sent at once.—*The St. Louis Republican*, February 23, 1888.

**'POSSUM.**—A familiarly colloquial abbreviation of OPOSSUM (*q.v.*).

A 'POSSUM on a 'simmon tree  
With one eye winked right down at me,  
Fust by his tail the crittur swung:  
And this old chorus sweetly sung:  
Get along hum, my yeller gals,  
For the moon on the grass am shining.  
—*Negro Ballad.*

—To 'POSSUM.—To make a pretence; to feign; to dissemble. To the well-known practice of the opossum in feigning death, when hard pressed by dogs and hunters, may be traced this term.

We stayed up in the tree till broad daylight, not thinking it prudent to trust ourselves on the ground before, with three dangerously wounded grizzlies roaming around the immediate neighborhood, besides the possibility of POSSUMING among those stretched out below. We had given them such a trouncing that if one of the survivors had ever got his paw on one of us he would have made it interesting.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, February 6, 1888.

**POSTAL.**—An abbreviation of *postal* card, which is the usual American term for "post-card." In Canada the English usage is followed.

Old lady (to village postmistress)—'Have ye got anythin' fer me, Miss Bullard?'  
Postmistress—'Here's a *POSTAL* from your daughter Mandy. How she do improve in spellin' sence she's be'n goin' to that boardin'-school.'—*Detroit Free Press*, Oct. 13, 1888.

**POSTAL CURRENCY.**—Postage stamps were readily accepted and recognized as currency during the Civil War.

**POST NOTE.**—A bill of exchange drawn to order.

**POST OAK** (*Quercus obtusiloba*).—A variety of oak found in the Middle States. Its wood is mainly used in ship-building. See also OAK BARREN.

Our march to-day lay through struggling forests of the kind of low, scrubbed trees, called POST-OAKS and black-jacks.—The soil of these oak barrens is loose and unsound, being little better than a mere quicksand; in which, in rainy weather, the horse's foot slips, and now and then sinks in a rotten, spongy turf, to the fetlock.—*Irving's Tour on the Prairies*, p. 95.

**POTATO.**—The variety of this tuber, known in England simply as *potato*, is called the IRISH POTATO in America to distinguish it from the SWEET POTATO (*Batata edulis*) which is indigenous to Carolina and the Southern States generally. Hence the latter is also called the CAROLINA POTATO.—POTATO BUG.—The COLORADO BEETLE (*q.v.*)—POTATO GRANT.—In the West Indies a patch of land allotted to resident laborers on estates; also PLANTAIN PATCH.

**POT-HOLES.**—Naturally formed depressions in rock, thought at one from being circular in shape, time, to have been made by the aborigines for grinding purposes. It is now certain, however, that the action of water and loose stones alone is the true explanation of the phenomenon.

**POT-PIE.**—A rough and ready method of making meat pies. The cooking vessel is simply used instead of a separate utensil, the fire playing under and around it in gipsy fashion.

POT-PIE is the favorite dish, and woodmen, sharp set, are awful eaters.—*Carlton's The New Purchase*, vol. i., p. 182.

**POT-WRESTLER**—A Pennsylvanian equivalent of the English "pot-wallopper"; a scullion.



**POULTERER** (Cant). — A letter-box thief.

**POUND**. — In England, a person's weight is estimated by stones and *pounds*; in America *pounds* alone are used. Thus, where we should say 10 st. 4 lb., an American's description would be 144 *pounds*. — **POUND PARTY**. — Very similar to a **DONATION PARTY** (*q.v.*).

**POUT**. — The **CATFISH** (*q.v.*), of which *pout* is the popular New England name.

**POVERTY-GRASS** (*Hudsonia tomentosa*). — As implied by the name, a poor weak sort of herbage. Common in New England. It is little more than a moss.

**POWDER-POST**. — Worm-eaten. "The wood of Deacon Hideaway's frame-house is all *powder-post*."

**POW-WOW**. — An Indian jollification or council. At these gatherings a horrible din was one of the chief characteristics, and hence its adoption colloquially to signify a noisy political meeting, and latterly, any occasion on which discussion, even of the most amicable nature, is likely to occur.

Milt Knight of the Wabash left for Chicago last night to attend the grand pow-wow. — *Missouri Republican*, Feb. 22, 1888.

— To pow-wow. — *Mutatis mutandis* the meaning of the verb is similar to that of the noun.

**POZO**. — A Spanish-Mexican term for a spring or well.

**PRAIRIE**. — An extensive tract of land, level or rolling, with few trees. *Prairie*, which is derived from the

French, is an Americanism, which has never been questioned. —

**PRAIRIE BITTERS**. — A beverage compounded of buffalo gall and water, in the proportion of a quarter of a gill to a pint. It is a mixture the medicinal virtue of which was thought to have been in an exact ratio to its filthy taste. — **PRAIRIE DOG** (*Cynomys ludovicianus*). — A marmot. — See **DOGTOWNS** under **DOG**.

The **PRAIRIE** dogs alone are not daunted by the heat, but sit at the mouths of their burrows with their usual pert curiosity. They are bothersome little fellows, and most prolific, increasing in spite of the perpetual war made on them by every carnivorous bird and beast. — *Ranch Life in the Far West*.

This animal is also, in the West, called **THE GOPHER** (*q.v.*). — **PRAIRIE HEN** (*Tetrao pratensis*). — Also called the **PINNATED GROUSE** (*T. cupido*) in the West; a **PARTRIDGE** in the North; and on the Delaware a **PHEASANT**; also **HEATH HEN** in other localities. — **PRAIRIE ITCH**. — A skin eruption caused by dust in hot weather. — **PRAIRIE ROSES**. — At certain seasons of the year, the turf of the Western prairies is strewn with flowers of a myriad varieties, amongst which a kind of rose is very noticeable.

The early rides in the spring mornings have a charm all their own, for they are taken when, for the one and only time during the year, the same brown landscape of these high plains turns to a vivid green, as the new grass sprouts and the trees and bushes thrust forth the young leaves; and at dawn, with the dew glittering everywhere, all things show at their best and freshest. The flowers are out, and a man may gallop for miles at a stretch with his horse's hoofs sinking at every stride into the carpet of **PRAIRIE ROSES**, whose short stalks lift the beautiful blossoms but a few inches from the ground. — *Century Magazine*, 1887.

— **PRAIRIE RUNNER**. — A bird, the description of which is thus given:

Man has a friend in the **PRAIRIE RUNNER**, which is the name of a bird whose

mission in life is to supervise the centipede census. This bird has a fondness for centipedes *au naturel*. If it were not for these industrious birds, centipedes would be as plentiful as men who think they understand all about the tariff question. When a PRAIRIE RUNNER discovers a centipede, he takes the 'insect in his bill and runs off with him. What the object of the bird is in running I cannot imagine, unless he, the bird, wants the centipede to admire the grace and swiftness of his motions. After giving the centipede a ride, the PRAIRIE RUNNER pauses and passes the insect with a sideway chewing gum sort of motion through his bill, very much as a linen collar is passed through a patent clothes wringer. Then the centipede is pale and cold in death, and the PRAIRIE RUNNER, which must be provided with a digester lined with sheet iron, swallows the insect endways.—*Pittsburg Dispatch*, 1888.

—PRAIRIE SCHOONER.—A large covered wagon which, before the advent of the "iron horse," was generally used by caravans traveling across the continent. These vehicles are by no means extinct, as the railroad, even at the present time, only taps but a very small portion of the Great West.

The supplies of coarse, rude food, are carried perhaps two or three hundred miles from the nearest town, either in the ranch-wagons or else by some regular freighting outfit, whose huge canvas-topped PRAIRIE SCHOONERS are each drawn by several yoke of oxen, or perhaps six or eight mules.—*Century Magazine*.

Many strange characters and strange customs are introduced, some of which the march of civilization has swept away. The old PRAIRIE SCHOONER, in constant use then, is now mainly a thing of the past.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, April 14, 1888.

—PRAIRIE STATE.—Illinois.—PRAIRIE WOLF.—The prairie wolf (misalled CAYOTE (*q.v.*), on the middle and northern plains) is about half-way in size between the fox and the buffalo wolf . . . These wolves are exceedingly cowardly, one alone not possessing courage enough to attack even a sheep. When in packs, and very hungry, they have been known to muster up resolution enough to attack an ox

or cow, if the latter be entirely alone.

PRAIRILLON.—A small prairie. This term is now almost obsolete.

PRAWCHEY.—In New York, a gossip; the Scotch "clack"; of Dutch origin.

PRAYER-BONES.—The knees.

'The neophyte will kneel!' said Lawler, 'Now get down on your PRAYER-BONES,' whispered Monaghan; and McKenna knelt upon the carpet.—*Pinkerton's Mollie Maguires and Detectives*.

PREACH.—A curtailment—born of American love of brevity—for preaching; also used in place of "sermon."

PREACHER'S STAND.—Western for a pulpit; much used at camp meetings and similar gatherings.

PRECINCT.—In electoral matters a synonym for "ward"; a district.

PRE-EMPT, TO.—(1) To secure land according to a legal form set out in the PRE-EMPTION LAW of 1841. This enactment has since been somewhat modified by the Homestead Act of 1862.—*See HOMESTEAD*.

The laws of the United States give the right to any citizen who does not own 320 acres of land in any State of the Union (and to this he is required to make oath) to PRE-EMPT 160 acres by fulfilling the detailed requirements of the act. These requirements are that he shall file his intention in the land office to enter upon and improve the land, either by cultivating it or erecting thereon a home, and residing upon the land long enough to make it his residence; which time is variously estimated to mean one or five days, just as the Receiver at any land-office may decide. To the fact that he has so resided and made said improvements, he must produce a witness, who testifies that such and such things have been done, and that the pre-emptor has resided the required time in the house on the land. Upon ful-

filling all these requirements and paying one dollar and a quarter per acre, either in gold or a land-warrant, and the fees, he receives a certificate of title. A duplicate of this is sent to the Secretary of the Interior at Washington, who, after having searched the records, and finding that the individual has not *PRE-EMPTED* before, issues a patent direct to him, and he becomes the owner of his farm by title direct from the Government.—*National Intelligencer*.

—(2) Hence colloquially to *pre-empt* is to take possession, or to qualify for. Thus a man may *pre-empt* for heaven.—*PRE-EMPTION RIGHT*.—The right to pre-empt or secure a title to Government lands.—*PRE-EMPTOR*.—One who has the right to pre-empt.

**PREFERENCE**.—In the game of Boston first-*preference* signifies, "Trump the same suit as the card turned up on the pack. Second-*preference* means "The same color, but not the same suit as the card turned up on the pack."—*The American Hoyle*.

**PEKEL**.—In Pennsylvania, a small sugar-coated cake.

**PRESIDENCY**.—The office of president or chief magistrate, who is chosen by the *ELECTORAL COLLEGE* (see *ELECTORS*) to serve for a period of four years. The Presidents of the United States, since the Revolution, with the opposition candidates are as follows:—

1789 George Washington—No opposition.  
1792 George Washington—No opposition.  
1796 John Adams—Thomas Jefferson.  
1800 Thomas Jefferson—John Adams.  
1804 Thomas Jefferson—C. C. Pinckney.  
1808 James Madison—C. C. Pinckney.  
1812 James Madison—De Witt Clinton.  
1816 James Monroe—Rufus King.  
1820 James Monroe—No opposition.  
1824 John Q. Adams—Andrew Jackson.  
1828 Andrew Jackson—John Q. Adams.  
1832 Andrew Jackson—Henry Clay.  
1836 Martin Van Buren—William H. Harrison.  
1840 William H. Harrison—Martin Van Buren.

1844 James K. Polk—Henry Clay.  
1848 Zachary Taylor—Lewis Cass.  
1852 Franklin Pierce—Winfield Scott.  
1856 James Buchanan—John C. Fremont.  
1860 Abraham Lincoln—S. A. Douglas.  
1864 Abraham Lincoln—C. B. McClellan.  
1868 U. S. Grant—Horatio Seymour.  
1872 U. S. Grant—Horace Greeley.  
1876 R. B. Hayes—S. J. Tilden.  
1880 James A. Garfield—W. S. Hancock.  
1884 Grover Cleveland—James G. Blaine.  
1888 Benj. Harrison—Grover Cleveland.

—*PRESIDENTIAL*.—Pertaining to the office of president.

**PRESIDIO**.—Spanish-Mexican for a military post.

**PRETTY WEATHER**.—Pleasant, agreeable weather is, in North Carolina and some parts of Pennsylvania, called *pretty weather*.

**PRETZEL**.—A biscuit-like cake.

I know what a sick friend means every time it is mentioned—it means 4 a.m., with a hatful of bar-room crackers scattered through Mr. Jerker's hair, and a quantity of those horrid *PRETZELS* adorning every pocket of his clothes. When Jerker has a sick friend on hand he either comes home in time for breakfast or he doesn't come home at all, and I get a note from a policeman to call at the Four Courts with a clean shirt and a couple of seidlitz powders, and 14 dols. to pay his fine for disturbing the peace by running up and down under citizens' windows shouting that he owns all St. Louis.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, April 29, 1888.

**PRICKLY PEAR** (*Opuntia vulgaris*).—A cactus, the fruit of which is fancied by some, though the general verdict pronounces it insipid. One variety is also called *INDIAN FIG* (*q.v.*).

**PRIGSTAR** (Cant).—In love matters a rival.

**PRIMARY**.—A preliminary meeting held by the voters of a district, usually for the purpose of making nominations or electing delegates to nominating conventions.—See *BOODLE*.



**PRIMINARY.**—In the South a dilemma; a "facer"; a difficulty. This is also an English provincialism.

**PRIMING.**—NOT A PRIMING TO.—Not to be compared with; not a circumstance to.—*See* CIRCUMSTANCE.—A backwood's term in allusion to an old-fashioned type of gun.

**PRIMP UP, TO.**—To be fastidious in making the toilet; to devote time to the various little arts and devices by which women seek to enhance their personal appearance.—**PRIMPY.**—A woman is said to be *primpy* when given to the adornment of her person by dress, cosmetics, and other means known only to those admitted into the feminine *sanctum sanctorum*.

**PRINCE'S PRIDE.**—*See* PIPSISSEWA.

**PRINTERY.**—A printing establishment; of the same class of words as bindery, bakery, creamery, etc.

**PROBATE, TO.**—To prove (with regard to wills).

The will of J. Lucas Turner, deceased, was **PROBATED** late Monday afternoon, before Judge Henderson. It is dated April 8, 1884. To each of his children he leaves 100 dol<sup>rs</sup>., and the residue of his estate to his wife, who is appointed executrix without bond.—*Missouri Republican*, February 22, 1888.

**PROCESSION.**—To GO ON WITH THE PROCESSION is to continue; not to allow a break in the continuity of any act. *Processions* form quite a feature of American public life—hence the various similes drawn from them.—To STAND AT THE HEAD OF THE PROCESSION.—To be first and foremost; to take the initiative.—**PROCESSIONER.**—An official surveyor of land.

**PRODUCE.**—The name by which crops are generically known.

**PROFESSOR.**—A word which, like gentleman and lady, is strangely misused in America, being applied indiscriminately to any one who makes a profession of anything. A similar laxity is creeping into vogue in England. A shoeblack in New York once set up as a *professor*!

**PROGRESS, TO.**—A verb which, having fallen into disuse in the Mother Country, has been retained in America, and is again making its way into popular speech in England. American citizens, however, always *progress* instead of advance; and Young America scorns to "grow up"; he *progresses* towards citizenship instead.

**PROHIBITION.**—The political doctrine which would forbid the drink traffic by law, and which would severely handicap the sale of intoxicating drinks. A **PROHIBITIONIST** is one who favors such a policy.

**PROJECT, PROJICK.**—The following amusing skit on the American use of this word is self-explanatory:—

We must again protest that the *Louisville Courier-Journal* is lowering the standard of Kentuckian. It editorially advises one member of the Legislature not to **PROJECT** with another. As Kentuckian, this is indescribably vile. The verb **PROJECT** is an English word, having no connection, orthographically, with the verb to **PROJICK** (p. part, **PROJECTED**, pres. part **PROJICKING**—pronounce **PROJ-ICKING** or **PRODG-ICKING**) in classic Kentuckian. A **PROJECTOR**, in English, is a person who **PROJECTS** all manner of schemes. The word originated in the times of John Law and the Mississippi bubble. A **PROJICKER** in Kentuckian, is a person who plays practical jokes on others, and ends his career by thawing frozen dynamite on the kitchen stove, or trying to blow a dirt-dauber's nest out of a shot-gun barrel. Kentuckian and English are closely allied languages, derived from the same Indo-Aryan source, and **PROJECT** and **PROJICK** have the same primi-

tive root (Sansk. DJECH, Zend. JEK, Lat. JEC); but since the separation of Kentuckian and English they have become widely differentiated, and no writer, who aims at classic Kentuckian should confound them.—*Missouri Republican*, March 8, 1888.

**PRONGHORN ANTELOPE** (*Antilocapra americana*).—Of a unique species, the *Antilocapridæ*, has been created to designate the *pronghorn antelope*. He is the only representative of this family, nor is it at all likely that any species will be discovered hereafter to keep him company. Also called *CABRÉE* by the French Canadian, and a *GOAT* by the Western hunters. Prongbucks shun the forest, but occur from small bands to thousands on the rolling prairies from the tropics to the 54° north latitude, west of the Missouri River.

**PRONOUNCE, TO.**—To turn out. This curious usage is current in Nantucket; thus, a horse, when being put through his paces, is said to *pronounce* well or ill, as the case may be.

**PRONOUNCEMENT.**—A proclamation or manifesto. The correct equivalent is *pronunciamento*, a word which has been adopted into the English language from the Spanish.

**PRONUNCIATION, PECULIARITIES OF.**—Taking the people as a whole, Americans are probably more accurate in *pronunciation* than the inhabitants of the Mother Country. The most marked divergence occurs, as might be supposed, in the New England and Southern States, those having been the first settled. All others are, in the main, mere modifications or new combinations of these. The rapid multiplication of books, and vastly extended facilities for travel, however, are doing their

work; and in the same manner that the provincial dialects of England are fast disappearing except amongst the agricultural population, so American peculiarities of speech are not so marked nowadays as formerly. The main points of difference in the North are thus succinctly stated by J. Russell Lowell:—

1. The genuine Yankee never gives the rough sound to the *r* when he can help it, and often displays considerable ingenuity in avoiding it even before a vowel. 2. He seldom sounds the final *g*, a piece of self-denial, if we consider his partiality for nasals. The same of the final *d*, as *han'* and *stan'* for *hand* and *stand*. 3. The *h* in such words as *while*, *when*, *where*, he omits altogether. 4. In regard to *a*, he shows some inconsistency, sometimes giving a close and obscure sound, as *hev* for *have*, *hendy* for *handy*, *es* for *as*, *thet* for *that*, and again giving it the broad sound it has in *father*, as *handsome* for *handsome*. 5. To the sound *ou* he prefixes an *e* (hard to exemplify otherwise than orally). The following passage in Shakespeare he would recite thus:—

Neow is the winta uv eour discontent  
Med glorious summa by this sun o' Yock,  
An' all the cleouds thet leorowed upon eour  
heouse,  
In the deep buzzum o' the oshin buried;  
Neow air eour breows beound 'ith victori-  
ous wreaths;  
Eour breused arms hung up fer moni-  
munce:  
Eour star alarums changed to merry  
meetins,  
Eour drefle marches to delighfle masures.  
Grim-visaged war heth smeuthed his  
wrinkled front,  
An' neow, insted o' moun'tin' barebid steeds,  
To fright the souls o' ferlie edverseries,  
He capers nimly in a lady's chamber,  
To the lascivious pleasin' uv o' loot.

6. *Au*, in such words as *daughter* and *slaughter*, he pronounces *ah*. 7. To the dish thus seasoned add a drawl *ad libitum*.

Another authority thus describes Southern intonations and one or two strange idioms which, though not quite in their proper place here, I give for the sake of consecutiveness.—“I found the half-forgotten *Southern intonations* and elisions as pleasing to my ear as they had formerly been. A Southerner talks

music; at least it is music to me, but then I was born in the South. The educated Southerner has no use for an "r," except at the beginning of a word. He says "honah," and "dinnah," and "Gove'nuh," and "befo' the waw," and so on. The words may lack charm to the eye in print, but they have it to the ear. When did the "r" disappear from Southern speech, and how did it come to disappear? The custom of dropping it was not borrowed from the North, nor inherited from England. Many Southerners—most Southerners—put a "y" into occasional words that begin with the "k" sound. For instance, they say Mr. K'yahter (Carter), and speak of playing k'yahds or of riding in the k'yahs. And they have the pleasant custom—long ago fallen into decay in the North—of frequently employing the respectful "Sir." Instead of the curt yes, and the abrupt no, they say "Yes, suh," "no, suh." But there are some infelicities. Such as "like" for "as," and the addition of an "at" where it isn't needed. I heard an educated gentleman say, "Like the flag-officer did." His cook or his butler would have said, "Like the flag-officer done." You hear gentlemen say, "Where have you been at?" And here is the aggravated form—I heard a ragged street arab say it to a comrade: "I was a-ask'n Tom what you was a-sett'n at." The very elect carelessly say "will" when they mean "shall"; and many of them say, "I didn't go to do it," meaning "I didn't mean to do it." The Northern word "guess"—imported from England, where it used to be common, and now regarded by satirical Englishmen as a Yankee original—is but little used among Southerners. They say "reckon." They haven't

any "doesn't" in their language; they say "don't" instead. The unpolished often use "went" for "gone." It is nearly as bad as the Northern "hadn't ought." This reminds me that a remark of a very peculiar nature was made here in my neighborhood (in the North), a few days ago: "He hadn't ought to have went." How is that? Isn't that a good deal of a triumph? One knows the orders combined in this half-breed's architecture without inquiring: one parent Northern the other Southern. To-day I heard a schoolmistress ask, "Where is John gone?" This form is so common—so nearly universal, in fact—that if she had used "whither," instead of "where," I think it would have sounded like an affectation."

**PROPIOS.**—This term, for lands owned by a municipality, has found its way into American speech through the purchase and annexation of colonies, once Spanish. These public lands are, under the Spanish-American law, reserved inalienably for the benefit of the community at large—for the erection of public buildings, markets, etc.

**PRO-SLAVERY.**—In favor of slavery. This term has managed to find its way into the dictionaries, when the principle embodied in it has become, as far as civilized nations are concerned, a thing of the past.

**PROSPECT.**—In mining phraseology a *prospect* is good or bad, according to the out-turn of the first painful of earth washed.

**PROTRACTED MEETING.**—A religious meeting continued for a length of time.—*See* BIG MEETING.

I experienced religion at one of brother Armstrong's PROTRACTED MEETIN'S. Them



special efforts is great things,—ever since I came out, I've felt like a new critter.  
—*Widow Bedott Papers*, p. 108.

**PROVEN.**—The old past participle of "to prove," still survives amongst most American writers. It is used occasionally in Scotland in the present day, *e.g.*, in the peculiar Scotch verdict, "not *proven*."

**PROVIDENTIAL CALL.**—*See* CALL.

**PROX OR PROXY.**—Formerly used in Rhode Island and Connecticut to denote an election at which voting by *proxy* was allowed under certain conditions. The ticket, or list of candidates handed to the voter, was itself called a *prox*. The terms are now obsolete.

**PRUNES.**—TO HAVE PRUNES IN THE VOICE. — To speak huskily, the cause being emotion.

When I shouted Mr. Speaker, my heart came into my throat, but I had the presence of mind to swallow it, and started in. Mr. Cox was in the chair, and he seemed a mile away. I wondered if he could hear me. There seemed to be PRUNES IN MY VOICE, and it sounded strange to me. I lived a year in ten seconds.—*St. Louis Daily Globe Democrat*, 1888.

**PRY.**—A lever. — TO PRY. — TO PRISE; to force open with a tool used as a lever. *Pry* is provincial in some parts of England, and the derivation which obviously suggests itself is that, it is a corruption of the French *prise*, taking, from *prendre* to take.

TWO USES FOR IT.

Arcola Record.—'Anything else?' asked a landlady of the new boarder, as he pushed back from the table.

'Yes; I'd like to have a crowbar.'

'What for?'

'To PRY that tough beefsteak out of my teeth.'

'Indeed; and while you are PRYING with the crowbar, will you please try to raise a little money to pay your board bill?'—*St.*

*Paul and Minneapolis Pioneer Press*, July 22, 1888.

**PUB. FUNC.**—An abbreviation for public functionary.

**PUBLISHERMENT.**—A New England term, used in connection with the publication of banns of marriage.

**PUCCOON.**—The POKE-BERRY OR BLOOD-ROOT, both of which *see*. *Puccoon* is a generic Indian name for plants which furnish coloring pigments.

**PUCKER UP!**—Cease talking. A slang exclamation equivalent to, "dry up."

**PUDJIKY.**—Fussy.

**PUEBLO.**—A Spanish-Mexican term for an Indian village, formerly under the control and guidance of an official of the Catholic Hierarchy. — **PUEBLO INDIAN.**—A Catholic Indian. These red men of New Mexico are semi-civilized and are under the care of Catholic priests. They are the descendants of the ancient rulers of the country, and are so called because they dwell in villages and subsist by agriculture, instead of living in lodges and depending upon the chase, like the wild Indians of the mountains and plains. — **PUEBLO REMAINS.**—These, says Charles Morris, in his *Monuments of Ancient America*, are ruins in New Mexico and Arizona, peculiar erections, very numerous in the region between the Rio Grande, Colorado, and Gila rivers, which owe their origin to a partly-civilized race, differing from all others. The *Pueblo Pintado* is one of the most remarkable. It is built of small flat slabs of greyish sandstone; between the stones are layers of small colored pebbles, the edifice at a distance resembling

brilliant mosaic work. It is thirty feet high, and embraces three stories, the upper portion of each story forming a terrace. The building is one hundred and thirty yards long, and contains fifty-three rooms on the ground-floor. The *Pueblo Una Vida* is about three hundred and thirty yards long, while that called the "Chettro Kettle," is four hundred and thirty-three yards long, and each story has one hundred and twenty-four rooms.

**PUFF-WORKERS.**—Penny-a-liners, who make a business of writing paragraphs puffing theatrical performers.

Every professional, no matter of what grade, is afflicted with an unquenchable thirst for newspaper publicity, hence press paragraphers, or, as they are professionally termed, **PUFF WORKERS**, have multiplied in all the big cities, and do a thriving trade. It is not always the most talented people who are best paid, as oftener those whose names have figured most in print regardless of their stage capabilities command the largest wages—*New York Mercury*, July 21, 1888.

**PUKE.**—(1) A low contemptible fellow; a cad; a snob.—(2) A Missourian is so nicknamed.

**PULL.**—Besides the phrases in which *pull* occurs common to the slang of both countries, there are a few distinctively American applications. —**PULL-BACK-DRESS.**—A woman's gown tightly draped in front, all the fulness being taken to the back. In a song popular at the time of this fashion, a woman is made to commend it because "it showed her handsome shape!" —**PULL DICK, PULL DEVIL.**—A variation of the English proverbial saying, "pull devil, pull baker." —**PULL DOO.**—A corruption of *poule d'eau*, a water-hen; a small black duck common on

the Gulf in Mexico.—**PULL DOWN YOUR VEST.**—*See VEST.*—**TO PULL FOOT.**—*See FOOT.*—**PULLING-BONE.**—The merry-thought or wish-bone of English children.—**TO PULL IT.**—To run.—**TO PULL OUT.**—To abandon; to withdraw.

He is rich, but he knows that if he keeps his money in the show business any longer he will lose it all, and so he has **PULLED OUT**; and we would too, except that we do not want to sacrifice all the money we have in show property.—*Missouri Republican*, February 24th, 1888.

—**TO PULL UP STAKES.**—*See STAKES.*—**TO PULL WOOL OVER THE EYES.**—*See WOOL.*

**PULLMAN CARS.**—These luxurious vehicles have become thoroughly naturalized in England. As is well known, they derived their distinctive name from an American who first introduced them.

**PULPITEER.**—A clergyman.

The attention of women who think that certain social reforms would be promoted if their sex possessed the ballot, is respectfully called to the Rev. T. De Witt Talmage. Although this learned **PULPITEER** does not believe that men have a right to compel a woman to pay taxes, and withhold the ballot from her at the same time, he doubts if her suffrage would advance the cause of progress.—*New York World*, February 14, 1888.

**PULQUE.**—A well-known intoxicating beverage, prepared from the sap of the **MAGUEY OF CENTURY PLANT**.

**PUMA** (*Felis concolor*).—This animal is known under various names—panther, catamount, American lion, and **COUGAR** (*q.v.*).

**PUMPKIN.**—When made into pies, a favorite American dish.

Hannah is a smart, willin' gall, and a rael worker, and a prime cook into the bargain; but let her alone in the doughnut line and for PUMPKIN PIES.—*McClintock's Tales*.

—HE THINKS SOME PUMPKINS OF HIMSELF.—This is equivalent to the highest self-appreciation. The antithesis of *some pumpkins* is *SMALL POTATOES*, applied to things that are mean and petty. The English expression, "no small beer," will also occur to mind.

The Miss A—'s cut a tall swathe, I tell you, for they say they are descended from a governor of Nova Scotia, and that their relations in England are *SOME PUMPKINS* too.—*Sam Slick's Human Nature*.

**PUNCHEONS.** — Rough - hewn logs, smoothed on one side and laid down as flooring. A substitute until bright prospects enable the settler to build a more substantial dwelling than the rude log hut in which *puncheon* floors are generally found.

**PUNCTUATED.**—A speech is said to be well *punctuated* with applause when rapturously received by the listeners—the simile being that bursts of applause are as frequent as are punctuation marks on a printed page.

**PUNK.**—Rotten wood, used as tinder.  
—To **PUNK.**—A New York term, probably a corruption of "to punch," with which it is identical in meaning.

**PUNKIN.**—A corruption of "pumpkin."  
—**PUNKIN SEED** (*Pomotis vulgaris*); also called **BREAM** and **SUN-FISH**. In form, this denizen of fresh waters is not unlike a *pumpkin-seed*, hence its name.

**PUNT.**—A canoe-like boat, fashioned out of a large tree. This is a Maryland and Virginia usage; in

England flat-bottomed boats are called *punts*.

**PUPELO.**—A whilom New England term for cider-brandy.

**PUPPY** (Cant). — Blind; doubtless from the condition of puppies when first born.

**PURE QUILL.**—A strange synonym for "the real thing"; the very essence of an argument. Also applied to any object thought worthy of superlative praise.

'Yer see,' he felt to explain, 'when religun is religun, an' it's the **PURE QUILL** an' no water in it, there's never one of us but kin take it in large doses and be thankful to the Lord fur sending the messenger; but when an onery, wuthless cuss like Joe Williams sots up to hev got a call to spread the Gospel, an' he cums yere among us as know him to spread it, why, we feel to make him shet.'—*Detroit Free Press*, August, 1888.

**PUSH-CART.**—A truck or barrow, pushed by hand.

One day last week we saw an old darkey up on O'Fallon-street, who had a **PUSH-CART**. He had written on the cart *The Andante Express*, and was delighted with the attention that he received.—*St. Louis Republican*, February 12, 1888.

**PUSSY WILLOW** (*Salix discolor*).—From the softness of the expanding catkins in early spring.

**PUT!**—Formerly a New Englandism for *Begone!* Now common throughout the Union. To **PUT** is also used in a similar sense, *i.e.*, to start; to be off. Also to **PUT OFF** and to **PUT OUT.**—To **PUT A HEAD ON ONE.**—*See HEAD.*—To **PUT IT IN STRONG.**—To speak or act with emphasis.—To **STAY, PUT.**—To remain where placed.—**PUT UP!**—A forcible injunction to silence, equivalent to "shut up!" in English slang.



**PUTTEN.**—The past participle of to put; frequently heard, like others of similar type—boughten, casten, gotten, proven, etc., etc.

**PUTTER, TO.**—To needlessly engage in fussy work of no special benefit to any one. Compare with English "to potter."

**PUTTO.**—A ranchman's term in the South-west for a stake to which cattle are tethered.

**PUTTY-ROOT.**—*See* ADAM AND EVE.

**PUZZLE-COVE** (Cant). — A lawyer. Many will be ready to agree with Bill Syke's definition.





**Q**. — Quite correct (korrekt). A catchphrase from Ben Woolf's drama of "The Mighty Dollar."

**QUACKLE, To.**—An English provincialism, which is commonly colloquial in America—to suffocate; to choke.

**QUADROON.**—Persons whose descent is two degrees removed from pure black are called *quadroons*, or in Spanish, *cuarteron*. The descent is: white man and black woman = mulatto; white man and mulatto woman = *quadroon*. Often a very high type of beauty is observable among *quadroons*.

**QUAG (Cant).**—Untrustworthy; unsafe.

**QUAHAUG.**—A New England name for a species of clam of the genus *Venus mercenaria*.—See **COHOG**.

**QUAIL (Cant).**—An old maid.—**QUAIL PIPE.**—A woman's tongue.

**QUAKER. QUAKER GUN.**—An imitation gun made of wood or other material, and placed in the port-hole of a vessel, or the embrasure of a fort, in order to deceive the enemy; so called from its inoffensive character.—*Webster*.—**QUAKERS.**—See **BLUETS**.—**QUAKER CITY.**—Philadelphia. William Penn, its founder,

belonged to the Society of Friends or *Quakers*.

He looked backward upon the receding town, and considered whether he would survive ever again to take his old name and place in the world and see the broad, teeming streets, handsome structures, and beautiful girls of the **QUAKER CITY**. To him it then seemed he was cutting loose from all the nether world.—*Pinkerton's Molly Maguires and Detectives*.

**QUAMISH.**—See **KAMAS ROOT**, of which it is a variety.

**QUARTER.**—A twenty-five cent piece; a quarter of a dollar.

'Did you ever have a lady hand you a lead **QUARTER**?' 'I have.' 'Nicely dressed, high-toned ladies?' 'Just so. There were several on this line who used to hand me lead **QUARTERS**.' 'And you didn't feel like saying anything to them?' 'There was no need. I always had four lead nickels ready to return for change.'—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, January 21, 1888.

**QUARTERAGE.**—A military term for a soldier's allowance.

**QUARTERS.**—The negro huts on a plantation in slavery times; the term still survives to designate the houses of black people.

**QUARTER SECTION.**—See **SECTION**.

**QUARTZ.**—**PRETTY GOOD QUARTZ ANYHOW!**—Said when a man makes the best of a bad bargain.

'The boys tell me it's a brass mine, but if it ain't brass 'tis gold, sure; and if it ain't that it's **GOOD QUARTZ ANYHOW**.'—*American Paper*.

**QUEEN ANN.**—A vulgar corruption of "quinine."

**QUEEN CITY.**—Cincinnati. Also called **PORKOPOLIS** (*q.v.*) and **PARIS OF AMERICA** (*q.v.*).

**QUEEN CITY OF THE LAKES.**—Buffalo, in the State of New York.

**QUEER.**—Counterfeit money. — **SHOVING THE QUEER.**—Circulating spurious money, paper or specie. — **QUEER SHOVERS.**—Those who put bad money into circulation. Slang in England, but colloquial in the States.

A middle-aged man, wearing a dark suit, dark overcoat, and a black stiff hat entered Edward Dempsey's saloon, 2856 Cass Avenue, Friday evening, when he succeeded in passing a counterfeit silver dollar. He had a number of coins of the same kind, and passed more of them at other places during the evening. The counterfeit is said to be a very good one, difficult to detect and easily passed on store-keepers. The police are looking for the **QUEER SHOVER**, and are confident of effecting his capture.—*Missouri Republican*, March 4, 1888.

The evidence is strong against the accused, an excellent pair of copper moulds for making the **QUEER** having been found on his premises.—*Missouri Republican*, January 25, 1888.

**QUES (Cant).**—Points. Obviously a corruption of "cues."

**QUICK AND THE DEAD.**—A new drink has been called the "*Quick and the Dead*," after the title of Miss Rives' last novel. It is made of Apollinaris water and brandy. Brandy is the "quick," and Apollinaris water the "dead." Undoubt-

edly some will ask for more of the *quick* and less of the *dead*.—*See DRINKS*.

**QUICK BOSOMS.**—Explained by quotation.

Our modern filibusters are the scum of our society, not men whom **QUICK BOSOMS** drive upon desperate adventures; but men whom rascality has outlawed, men whom society, instead of sending forth with blessings, kicks out with contempt. Broken-down gamblers, drunken lawyers, unsuccessful publicans, dissipated shoemakers, detested swindlers, men under whose feet every plank has broken, and those who nowadays assume the bearing, and attempt to walk in the footsteps of Cortez or of Clive.—*New York Courier and Enquirer*.

**QUICKER 'N GREASED LIGHTNIN'**—Quicker than an express train.—*See GREASED LIGHTNING*.

**QUIDDLING.**—Uncertain; unsteady.

**QUIL.**—To GET UP AND QUILL.—To depart in haste; to move quickly. Texas.

**QUILTING BEE.**—*See BEE*.

**QUIRT.**—A riding-whip, about eighteen inches long, made of raw hide and leather plaited together, with a piece of iron in the handle.

It was at once agreed that he wasn't the sure-enough broncho-buster he thought himself, and he was compared very unfavorably to various heroes of the **QUIRT** and spurs who lived in Texas Colorado; for the best rider, like the best hunter, is invariably either dead or else a resident of some other district.—*Century Magazine*, October, 1888.

—To **QUIRT.**—To break in wild horses.





**ACCOON.** — (*Procyon lotor*).—See COON.

**RACE-TRACK.**—A race-course.

**RACKBONES.** — This

term, which almost carries its meaning on its face, is applied either to a wreck of a horse, or to an emaciated human being. "Racks" is the name given by English horse-copers to the bones of a dead horse.

**RADICAL.** — Also contemptuously shortened to RAD. American *Radicals* were a section of the Republican party, who so clung to the Union that to preserve it, when the anti-slavery crisis arose, they were ready to sacrifice all other constitutional rights. As a party name in England it was used as early as 1818.

**RAFT.**—(1) A float of wood, boards, or logs. Neither the name nor the object itself is, of course, distinctively American, except so far as size is concerned. The log rafts formed in the head waters of the great rivers, more especially the Mississippi, are of almost incredible dimensions. Timber felled in the interior is by this means floated to its destination, and the RAFTSMEN employed in the traffic build rough cabins and live on them for months at a time.—(2) The immense size of some of these rafts has led to the

use of the word in the sense of a large number or quantity, thus a man with his "quiver" full would be said to have a whole raft of children.—To RAFT.—To transport on a raft.—RAFTING.—The business of constructing and floating rafts.—RAFT DUCK.—See BROADBILL.

**RAG.**—(1) Used colloquially for any piece of linen, *e.g.*, a towel; a sheet; and, vulgarly, a pocket-handkerchief. A similar divergence exists in respect to "rocks" for "stones," "dirt" for "earth," etc.—(2) From this usage arises the practice amongst soldiers of calling the regimental flag or colors a *rag*; in this sense, however, the term is employed in a half-affectationate, half-familiar manner.

I have a little flag (it belonged to one of our cavalry regiments), presented to me by one of the wounded; it was taken by the Secesh in a fight, and rescued by our men in a bloody skirmish following. It cost three men's lives to get back that four-by-three flag—to tear it from the breast of a dead rebel—for the name of getting their little RAG back again.—*Walt Whitman in Century Magazine*, October, 1883.

—RAG (Cant).—A dollar.—To TAKE THE RAG OFF THE BUSH.—To outvie; to bear the palm; to outdo.—See BUSH.—RAG CARPET.—Known in England as a "scrap hearthrug" or "carpet," of home manufacture from strips of cloth knitted or sewn together.—RAGGED (Cant).—Abused; slandered. The criminal classes show

unwonted wordly wisdom in this definition.—**RAG-WATER** (Cant).—All kinds of intoxicating drink receive this name. Cause and effect are here often intimately co-related.

**'RAH 'RAH 'RAH!**—The Harvard cheer.—A vocable now common everywhere. To 'RAH is frequent both in writing and speaking. A corruption of "hurrah."

So long as Mr. Cleveland appeared to be an unavoidable necessity the Indiana Democracy denounced him heartily, and **RAHED** for Hill till the brass began to wear off its lungs. Now that it is certain that Mr. Cleveland has powerful rivals, and possible that he will not get the vote of his own State in convention, the Indiana Democracy is rending its throat with 'RAH for Grover!—*Mobile Register*, 1888.

**RAID, To.**—To roust out; to make legal search. From "raid," a predatory excursion.

Detectives Condon and McFarland, of the Third district, **RAIDED** a refuge for thieves, 718, North Fifteenth Street, at an early hour yesterday morning, and captured a notorious character named Ed. Boyle.—*Missouri Republican*, February 22, 1888.

**RAIL.**—To **RIDE ON A RAIL.**—When Judge Lynch holds court, if the extreme penalty is not meted out to the unfortunate victim of the popular resentment, punishment is often administered in the form of **RAIL-RIDING**. The unwilling culprit is set upon a *rail*, none too broad, and carried through the streets, the finale being reached in a ducking, or tarring and feathering. *Rail-riding* must not be confounded with **FENCE RIDING** (*see FENCE*), though too frequent an exhibition of the latter often qualifies for the former.

**RAILROAD TERMINOLOGY, ETC.**—American railways, or *railroads* as they are called, besides being marvels

of engineering skill, are managed and worked so differently to English lines, that they at once arouse the interest and curiosity of the old-world stranger within the American gates. To begin with, the terminology exhibits a most marked divergence. The following list comprises the more important variations. (A fuller explanation of many of the terms will be found in its proper place.)

In the United States the **RAILROAD** is the English railway; Railroad *depôt*, railway station; Cow-catcher or pilot, plough; Engineer, engine-driver; Fireman, stoker; Conductor, guard; Ticket office, booking-office; Baggage, luggage; Baggage car, luggage van; Passenger car, carriage; Track, line; Turn-out, siding; Frog, crossing plate; Switches, points; Check rails, guard rails; Trucks (under the cars), bogies; Switching off, shunting; Freight train, goods train.

The development of the American *railroad* system has been most marked and rapid. Twenty-seven years ago the dream of a line uniting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans was the butt and shaft of ridicule; and Burton, after visiting Utah in 1856, remarked that "such a railway may possibly be built in the next century." As usual, the unlikely has happened; and, at the present time, there are no less than five railways uniting East and West, to saying nothing of the Canadian Pacific in the British Dominions.

The Union-Central Pacific was the first of these great lines completed. The compound name arises from the fact that Congress authorized the Central Pacific of California to build eastward and the Union Pacific of Nebraska to build westward till they met, each road to have mileage subsidy and land grant for the distance it constructed the road. They met at Promontory Point, a spur of the Idaho mountains, which runs down into the Great Salt Lake of Utah; and there, on the 10th of May, 1869, the celebrated last spike was driven with a silver hammer, with imposing ceremonies. The two roads soon after agreed to put their junction at the old Mormon town of Ogden, east of the lake, and in time they passed

under one management. Both corporations began their great work in the darkest period of the Civil War, and completed it during the era of highest prices and the flood-tide of greenbacks and speculation. The cost was enormous, and the Legislative scandals fearful. The road starts at Omaha, and, after entering the Platte Valley, enters on a long incline of 500 miles, averaging a rise of ten feet to the mile—so the passenger is higher than the tops of the Alleghanies before he gets in sight of the Rockies, without observing the ascent. From Cheyenne to Sherman the rise is very rapid, and thence to the summit of the Wasatch the road is on a ridge or plateau, crossing occasional ridges. From Wasatch, second highest point on the line, it descends rapidly 3,800 feet to the shore of Salt Lake, and then crosses near 600 miles of desert and low rocky ridge to the Sierra Nevada, where the highest station is but little over 7,000 feet. The Northern Pacific was next in time. Completely crushed by the great panic of 1873, the projectors waited patiently till the revival of business; they then reorganized, completed the line, and actually brought the old bonds, which were considered worthless for a while, up to par—a financial success without parallel. Duluth, the starting point on Lake Superior, is but 600 feet above the sea, and the road encounters but slight elevations till it reaches the heart of the Rocky Mountains; but experience has shown that winter travel on it is but little more obstructed than on more southern roads. A great advantage is found in the fact that the road traverses very little alkali land, the dust of the soda plains being a great annoyance on the southern roads. The Canadian Pacific has still less alkali land, but more desert, as it crosses the great Keewattin wilderness, that high, rocky plateau stretching from Lake Superior to the Arctic Ocean, which is supposed to be the remains of a lofty mountain of plutonic rock, the rock having been swept southward by icebergs, and scattered in the form of boulders and drift gravel. West of that it crosses the vast and very fertile plain of Red River; farther on it traverses a good grazing country, and then the mountains and British Columbia. In American territory the Southern or Texas Pacific was the first favored, and was the particular pet of Jefferson Davis when secretary of war. Part of the region it crosses was bought under the Gadsden treaty of 1853, only because the level of the Gila was the natural route for a trans-continental railway. The war ruined the scheme apparently. Yet it was revived in 1875, and the road was completed in 1881. It is already the favorite route for winter and spring. The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe runs through rather the roughest region of any, traversing about 1,000 miles of almost unbroken mountain

and desert, from the Rio Grande to the valleys of California west of the Sierras. Yet it probably has more startling curiosities on its line than any other route. The scenery is of the grand and extremely rugged type—the bare mountains, the deep ragged canyons and the rocky plateaus have the awful impressiveness of desolation. Such are the main lines only. The connections include many thousand miles of rail, and are stimulating trade and development.—*Science (abridged)*, 1888.

—RAIL, TO.—To travel by railway. —To RAILROAD. —(1) In Pennsylvania a guard is said to *rail-road* for a living. —(2) Idiomatically, to do a thing hastily.

Senator Edwards (dem), in explaining his vote in the negative, said that the only proper term for describing the passage of the bill was RAILROADING. He for one could not vote for a measure hurried through without time for deliberation.—*Missouri Republican*, February 22, 1888.

It is not good legislation to RAILROAD bills through the house without having full and intelligent discussion, and also a quorum of the members present to decide whether or not these measures shall be passed.—*Ibid*.

—RAIL-CAR.—A railway coach.

—See PULLMAN CARS.—RAILROAD CITY.—Indianapolis, in Indiana. This sobriquet is in allusion to the fact that there a great many lines of railway find a common centre.

—RAILROADER.—An employé on a railway.

They succeeded in convincing the miners that their own troubles could be settled without much difficulty, but that it was simple folly for them to attempt to longer bolster up the RAILROADERS in their fight.—*New York Weekly Times*, February 22, 1888.

RAILS (Cant).—Curtain lectures—railing indeed.

RAINCOAT.—A waterproof cloak is so called in the West.—See GOSSAMER.

RAISE.—This word is by no means a drone in the community of words. —A *raise* is frequently synonymous with a fraudulent action; a getting the better of one.



About a year ago Spencer, who draws a six-dollar pension, RAISED one of his checks to 3,000 dols., and, presenting it to a Kearney county bank, drew out 500 dols., leaving the balance on deposit. When the check reached the St. Louis sub-treasury the RAISE was discovered, and reported to the Topeka officials; a special agent was sent out, and Spencer arrested.—*Missouri Republican*, February 15, 1888.

—To RAISE or TO MAKE A RAISE.  
—To procure or obtain; to make a haul or "raise the wind," e.g., "Cora, I'm hungry; raise me some crackers and cheese."—To BE RAISED, or TO RAISE (used both of persons and things).—To be reared; to propagate. Children are raised not "reared," and crops rarely grow, they are raised instead. This usage is an Old English survival, and was used by Lord Herbert of Chertbury in his memoirs.

'How long have you lived here?' 'Oh, ever senced me and Davy was married, or nigh about fifteen years, but I was RAISED in the sand hills in Rockingham county.'—*The American*, June 27, 1888.

MGR. CAPEL AND A KENTUCKY GIRL.—MGR. Capel was the subject of a talk the other evening, the spokeswoman of the party being the daughter of our ex-minister to a foreign court and a Catholic. 'I don't mean the man,' she said, 'he is ill-mannered. It was this way: I was talking to him and in some way referred to my youth, and said I had been RAISED in Kentucky.' 'But, madam,' he said, with provoking irrelevancy, and in a tone of supercilious criticism, 'you should not say RAISED. Bred is better; we say so in England.' 'Do you?' I answered with considerable warmth; 'well, I don't. In Kentucky we breed cattle and horses and mules [and formerly niggers she might have added] and RAISE children. Then I turned my back on him quite as politely as he had begun the dispute, and I felt better.'—*Washington Post*.

I was RAISED there right on the banks of the Tennessee, but I was born just over the line in Alabama.—*J. H. Beadle's Western Wilds*.

This is an uncommon child! Look at his great size! His large head! His eyes! I never saw his equal before! He will be worth RAISING!—*Concord Monitor*, 1888.

As an instance of raise applied to crops the following may be quoted:

Major Guerdon G. Moore, who has just returned from Florida, says if he ever gets into that State again it will be in a box; he never will go there of his own accord. He says they only RAISE niggers, alligators, swamps, and miasma. Confound a State that can't RAISE grass.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, Feb. 14, 1888.

Variants are TO BE RAISED CIVILIZED, or TO BE RAISED BEFORE THE WOODS WAS BURNT, metaphors which explain themselves.—To RAISE ONE is to get an advantage; to cap a story; etc.; a colloquial use of the term in poker.

One evening a tourist, who had been devoting the summer to trout fishing in the Cimarron, was telling some pretty good-sized fish stories to a long-haired frontiersman, who, while listening, was evidently studying how he might see the tourist and RAISE him on the size of his yarn. The tourist ended. The frontiersman shifted his quid of tobacco to the other cheek and followed with a capper.—*New York Mercury*, July 21, 1888.

— RAISING A HOUSE, RAISING BEE, or RAISING.—Interchangeable terms for a party of neighbors and friends assembled to put together and build a frame-house—a social custom now fast disappearing, and only now practised in the back country.—*See BEE*.—To RAISE A BET.—The same as going better (in poker).—*See GO BETTER*.—To RAISE A BEAD.—*See BEAD*.—To RAISE CAIN.—*See CAIN*.—To RAISE HAIR.—*See HAIR*.—To RAISE THE HATCHET.—*See HATCHET*.—To RAISE A RACKET.—To make a disturbance or commotion.—RAISING.—A New England term for yeast. It is an exact translation of the French *levain*, leaven. Raising, however, is a survival of Old English usage, having been used by Gayton.

RAKE.—In certain German settlements, a comb.

RAKEHELLY.—Utterly abandoned; a compound of "rake" and "hell."

M. de Fourgon, behind her, lifted his eyebrows. 'José,' he said, aside to Knight, 'is a good fellow enough up here among the women and babies; but with his own crew, at St. Charles, there is no more **RAKEHELLY** scamp in New Orleans.'—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

**RALPH** (Cant).—A stupid fellow; a fool.

**RAMBUNCTIOUS**.—Quarrelsome; ugly tempered.

Miners at Butte, Nev., recently, were persuaded with difficulty to enter a mine, having a superstitious fear that it was haunted. So it was, as a large and **RAMBUNCTIOUS** goat had taken up his abode in the mineral cabin and made things lively for the time being.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, March 2, 1888.

**RAMMER** (Cant).—The arm.

**RAMSAMMY**.—In the West Indies a generic name for a coolie.

**RANCH, RANCHO** (Spanish).—(1) A rude hut of posts and boughs of trees, a collection of which, in Northern Mexico, formed a village.—(2) A cattle station or farm. The word has now become very popular, and is thoroughly incorporated into American speech in the sense of a farm; a small estate, etc. In some parts of the country every habitation outside a town is a *ranch*. There are hay, grain, milk, horse, cattle, and even chicken ranches! The word has in fact travelled from Northern Mexico to the Dominion of Canada, amplifying its application as it advanced. Correctly speaking, however, a *ranch* is a cattle station, the industry itself, together with its "outfit," and its terminology, having been copied from the Mexicans.—*See* COW-BOY AND BRAND.

At the main **RANCH** there will be a cluster of log buildings, including a separate cabin for the foreman or ranchman; often another

in which to cook and eat; a long house for the men to sleep in; stables, sheds, a blacksmith's shop, etc.—the whole group forming quite a little settlement, with the corrals, the stacks of natural hay, and the patches of fenced land for gardens or horse pastures. This little settlement may be situated right out in the treeless, nearly level open, but much more often is placed in the partly wooded bottom of a creek or river, sheltered by the usual background of sombre brown hills.—*Ranch Life in the Far West*.

—To **RANCH**.—To engage in the cattle-raising industry. —**RANCHER** OR **RANCHMAN**.—A cattle raiser. —**RANCHERIA**.—Rarely heard now, but formerly and correctly the collection of buildings on a ranch. —**RANCHERO**.—The same as **RANCHMAN**; *ranchero* being the more lengthy Spanish form. Also in the extreme South-west, a peasant. —**RANCHO**, a ranch; the original form of the word.

**RANGE**.—A cattleman's term, in Texas, for the prairie on which his cattle feed. —Hence, colloquially, to **GO OVER THE RANGE** is to die, as any reader of Bret Harte's frontier stories knows; but once it was limited to cattle, and so applied because beasts that strayed from the main herd, or went over the *range*, were more apt than not to meet with fatal mishap.

**RANGLE, TO** (Cant).—To carry on a *liason* with more than one woman at a time—a fruitful cause of wrangling should they meet.

**RANTANKEROUS**. — **CANTANKEROUS**. — Given to quarrelsomeness. Either a variant of **CANTANKEROUS** or a derivative of **RANTAN**, which, in Old English, signified a drunken row.

**RAPE, TO**. — To commit rape; to violate a woman by force.

Henry Tomlin, the man who committed **RAPE** on Mrs. Ogan, near Ennis, some time last year, was tried in court this week:

Tomlin is a brutal fellow, having, some years ago, it is said, RAPED his step-daughter, in some of the Eastern States, and fled to Texas to escape justice. — *Missouri Republican*, March 31, 1888.

**RAPPER.**—A contemptuous term for a SPIRITUALIST (*q.v.*).

**RAT.**—In England a turncoat; but in addition to this signification, among American printers, it denotes a workman who consents to receive a wage lower in scale than that demanded by his fellows. —  
**TO RAT.**—The same remarks, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to this verb as to the corresponding noun. —  
**RAT OFFICE.**—A printing establishment in which such practices occur. —  
**RATS!**—An ejaculation expressive of contemptuous sarcasm or indifference.

The somewhat notorious Rev. Abbott Kirtidge is in a fever of discontent because the President of this great Republic, for the sake of securing votes, insulted the religious convictions of the vast majority of our population by his gift, in your and my name, to the religious head of the Papal Church. In the language of Mrs. Gougar, RATS! RATS! — *Kansas City Times*, 1888.

—**RAT-THIEVING.**—Sneak-thieving; petty pilfering from carriages, etc.

**RATING.**—**SPECIAL RATING.**—In commercial circles to obtain a special *rating* is to ascertain from certain agencies a report as to a man's credit. The expression is familiarly colloquial in the States.

She sat down one day and wrote to a business friend of her father's, in whom she reposed entire confidence, and asked him to write to a commercial agency in the town where his broker's home was and obtain a **SPECIAL RATING** of the man who evidently wished to obtain her hand. She wanted to know if it was a case of Claude Melnotte's 'Lake of Como' or not. — *Texas Siftings*, September 15, 1888.

**RATOONS.**—The growth of sugar canes, after the "stand" has been once cut. — Hence also to **RATOON**.

After the canes are laid and cut, they are covered with ploughs or with a machine called a rotary hoe, and the ground is then rolled to press the dirt close to the sprouting eyes. The first crop is called plant-cane. Next year the cane sprouts from the stubble, and is called first **RATOONS**. The second year it sprouts again, and is called second **RATOONS**. The third year the stubble is ploughed up and the ground sowed with field peas, which recuperates the land, as clover does in Northern farms. The fourth year it is again put in plant-cane. A good yield to the acre is 25 tons of plant-cane, 20 of first **RATOONS**, and 15 of second **RATOONS**. On the Upper Coast, above New Orleans, it is customary to let the stubble **RATOON** but once. In Cuba it often **RATOONS** six successive years, but the cane becomes constantly more woody and poorer in saccharine matter. — *Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

**RATTLED.**—Confused; perplexed; nervous. From the ordinary signification of "rattle," to shake.

No wonder the members of the City Council get more or less **RATTLED** by the rush and roar of business, with the gas question, the cable, and the L road, all coming to the front for consideration the same evening. — *Daily Inter-Ocean*, March 7, 1888.

I don't deny that I was a bit **RATTLED**, and that my lip would quiver in spite of me, but I was at the same time fully determined to protect the store if it cost me my life. — *New York Sun*, 1888.

**RATTLESNAKE** (*Crotalus horridus*).—A venomous snake of a well-known character, which, however, is not peculiar to America. The fact is here deserving of mention that this reptile at one time was adopted as the national emblem, the United States' flag having borne a *rattlesnake* in the act of striking, with the motto, "Don't tread on me." The Stars and Stripes was a later adoption (1777).

**RAWHIDE**, or **RAWHIDE WHIP.**—A whip made, as its name indicates, of raw cowhide. Mainly used by



cowboys and plainsmen on the cattle ranges of the West.

Wright Smith, a one-legged white man, was arraigned before Recorder Dunbar yesterday for cruelly whipping his son William, 15 years old. The boy was whipped on the naked back with a RAWHIDE.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, March 30, 1888.

**READ OUT.**—A man is *read out* of a party when denounced as a deserter from its ranks.

**READY, TO.**—To make ready; to put to rights; or in order. A Scotch idiom, which transplanted by emigrants from Scotland in the early days of the Union, took root, and still survives; mainly, however, used in its original form TO REDD.

**READY JOHN.**—A slang term for money.—*See* CHARM.

**REAL ESTATE.**—This is a compound that has no proper place in the language of everyday life, where it is a mere pretentious intruder from the technical province of law. Law makes the distinction of real and personal estate; but a man does not, therefore, talk of drawing some personal estate from the bank; or going to Tiffany's (a well-known jeweller and goldsmith) to buy some personal estate for his wife; nor when he has an interest in the National Debt does he ask how personal estate is selling. He draws money, buys jewels, and asks the price of bonds. *Real estate*, as ordinarily used, is a mere big sounding, vulgar phrase for houses and land, and so used is a marked and unjustifiable Americanism.—*Words and their Uses*.

Peter Myers, the largest REAL ESTATE owner in Janesville, Wis., and reported to be the wealthiest man in Southern Wisconsin, dropped dead of heart disease on Tuesday.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, March 14, 1888.

—**REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.**—The land transfer formalities are much less complicated in the States than in England, a system of public registration being in vogue.

**REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.**  
Fritz Kespohl and wife to Fred W. Hagemeyer—25 ft. on Twentieth Street, city block 2431—warranty deed ... .. \$3,825 00  
William Roth and wife to Conrad Roth—45 ft. 6½ inches on Twentieth Street, city block 2432—warranty deed ... .. 1,200 00  
Jeremiah Murphy and wife to Patrick Leahy and wife—50 ft. on Easton avenue, city block 3775—warranty deed ... .. 1,500 00  
—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, 1888.

**REAR-HORSE.**—A Southern name for the Mantis.

**REATA.**—A Spanish term, which is frequently used in the West as a synonym for LARIAT (*q.v.*). A raw hide or plaited rope with a running noose for catching and securing horses and cattle.

**REBELLIONIST.**—A supporter of rebellion. This and kindred terms were introduced at the time of the Civil War.

**REBOSO.**—The long veil of Spanish women, worn over the head and shoulders. This term is a legacy from the Spanish-American States.

**REBS.**—A nickname bestowed on Confederate soldiers by those of the North; sometimes JOHNNY REBS. The word is a contraction of "rebel."

**RECKON, TO.**—The Southern equivalent of the Northern GUESS, and the New England CALCULATE. The remarks under the synonyms apply with equal force to *reckon*. The latter, however, is a survival of an older English usage.

**RECOLLEMBER.**—A negro corruption and re-combination of "to recollect" and "to remember." Black people are very fond of these hybrid forms.

**RECOMMEND.**—An abbreviated form of "recommendation" current in New England. A commendatory notice.

**RECONSTRUCTION.**—This is a distinct Americanism, and came to the front politically at the close of the Civil War, when, both sides having laid down their arms, the first object sought by Northern statesmen was the building up anew of the shattered national edifice.—*See also* OLD and NEW SOUTH.

The catastrophe of Mr. Lincoln's assassination lay chiefly in its effect upon the policy of RECONSTRUCTION. Had he lived there would have been none of the black codes in the Southern States after the war, and the apparent necessity of enfranchising those who were notoriously and absolutely unfit for political responsibility would not have existed. The view of Mr. Lincoln, of Governor Andrew, of Massachusetts, and of other wise and devoted Republicans, was that the work of RECONSTRUCTION, to be effective must be gradual and the work of time.—*Harper's Weekly*, January 21, 1888.

**RECORD.**—A curious perversion of meaning has occurred with this word. The transition, however, is easy from the legitimate meaning of an authentic register or "enrolment" to that in which a man's *record*, good or bad, signifies his actions and doings in the past. The phrase was first used politically, and in electoral contests a candidate's *record* is ransacked, all the events of his life being bared to view in order to supply arguments for or against him, as the case may be. Now, however, the expression has become colloquial.

It is one of the most curious facts in regard to sporting events, that when a man

breaks the RECORD he makes the RECORD.—*New York World*, February 14, 1888.

**RED OF RED CENT.**—Popular terms for the copper cent, the smallest coin in U.S. currency. *Red* is used in this association in contrast to white, the color of the nickel coinage.

Jim breaks out in a string of oaths, and slaps down a ten-dollar gold piece on the bar. I look at it as much surprised as the bar-tender, for I never knew Jim to have even a RED in the spring before.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, April 14, 1888.

—RED ADDER.—*See* COPPERHEAD.

—RED BUD (*Cercis canadensis*).—

The JUDAS TREE (*q.v.*).—In the early spring, before the leaves appear, this flowering shrub is covered with bright pinkish blossoms—hence its name of *red bud*. Its other appellation, Judas tree, is derived from a legend to the effect that the false apostle hanged himself on a branch of this species.—

RED CHIP.—A variant of RED CENT. *Chips* in the American game of poker are used as a substitute for money—hence the interchangeable use of RED CENT and RED CHIP.

—Similarly NOT A RED CHIP ON STYLE is a phrase employed to describe something utterly worthless or beneath notice.—*See* RED.

—RED DOG MONEY.—Bartlett (who wrote in 1877, and whom I here quote entire) thus explains the phrase:—

A term applied, in the State of New York, to certain bank notes which have on their back a large red stamp. The late general banking law of the State of New York, which was applied to all new banks, as well as to those the charters of which were renewed, obliged the parties or individuals associated to deposit securities with the comptroller, and receive from him blank notes of various denominations, signed or bearing the certificate of the comptroller or officer authorised by him. These notes bore a red stamp on their backs. The free admission under this law of securities of a very questionable character induced many persons, both individually and collectively,

to organize banks of issue; and, as a natural consequence, a considerable portion of the circulating medium soon consisted of the notes of the free banks, bearing the red stamp. The community, generally, did not consider these notes as safe as those issued by the old banks, and stigmatized them as RED DOGS, and the currency as RED DOG MONEY. The character of the securities, however, has since been improved by an act which demands that only certain stocks of well-established reputation shall be admitted; and consequently the odium which existed against the first banks created under the law is now done away with. In Michigan, they apply the term BLUE-PUP MONEY to bank notes having a blue stamp on their backs.

—RED EYE.—(1) A well-known term for whiskey of a somewhat fiery nature. Cause and effect are not in this case things that differ.

Often have I seen a good old father pass our house, going on Saturdays to his preaching place with a long-necked, empty bottle in either pocket of his overcoat; and just as often have I seen the same good old father returning on Monday with his long-necked bottles and his rotund person all as full as they could hold of corn juice RED-EYE, obtained from the still of the deacon at whose house he preached.—*Missouri Republican*, March 8, 1888.

—(2) The COPPERHEAD (*q.v.*). — RED-HEAD (*Fuligula ferina*). — A duck commonly found and esteemed as food throughout the Union, and which derives its name from the color of its head. — RED HORSE.

—(1) (*Catostomus dugesii*). — A species of sucker found in the Ohio river. — (2) A nickname for a Kentuckian, who is also called a CORN CRACKER. — RED-HOT. — Used colloquially as an intensive; e.g., a red-hot time, a red-hot temper, etc. The exact meaning depends largely on the speaker's context and tone of voice. — RED MAN. — An Indian. The dark reddish-brown complexion of the American aborigines has given rise to this distinctive name. — RED-ROOT (*Ceanothus americanus*). — The same as NEW JERSEY TEA (*q.v.*).

—RED-SKIN. — An American Indian from the color of his skin. —

RED SUMAC. — A tree, the leaves of which supply a substitute for tobacco, and which is largely used for that purpose by Indians. Also called RED WILLOW.

While I am writing, I am smoking a pipe filled with kinnikinnick, the dried leaves of the RED SUMAC—a very good substitute for tobacco.—*Carvalho's Adventures in the Far West*, p. 36.

—TO RED UP, OR TO REDDY. — To make ready. A Pennsylvanian form. — See TO READY. — RED VIPER. — One of the many names by which the COPPERHEAD (*q.v.*) is known. — RED WILLOW. — The RED SUMAC, OR KINNI-KINNICK, both of which see. The leaves of this tree are used as a substitute for tobacco.

There are also certain creeks where the Indians resort to lay in a store of kinnikinnick, the inner bark of the RED WILLOW, which they use as a substitute for tobacco, and which has an aromatic and very pungent flavor.—*Ruxton's Life in the Far West*, p. 116.

REDEMPTIONER. — In the early colony days it was common for vessels coming from England to Virginia to bring redemptioners, who were technically known as "indentured servants," because they were bound to serve a stipulated time to pay or "redeem" the cost of their transportation. Some of these redemptioners were convicts banished to America for crime; but all of them were sold, and, for the time being, treated as slaves.

RED RIBBON (Cant). — Brandy. — RED-FUSTIAN. — Applied to both porter and port wine.

REED BIRD. — The Delaware name for the BOBOLINK (*q.v.*). Its flesh is a great delicacy, being as much esteemed among Americans as is the lark among English gourmets.

A gentleman who sat down to his first dish of REED BIRDS remarked somebody



had dropped a piece of meat on the toast.—*Talk of the Day*, Nov. 3, 1888.

**REEK, To.**—A corrupted form of "wreak"; to avenge.

**REFORM SCHOOL.**—A reformatory.

**REGENT.**—A member of the governing body of the University of the State of New York, answering, as far as that State is concerned, to the Education Department of England and Wales.

**REGISTERING PUNCH.**—An American invention for checking fares, which has become familiar to travellers by omnibus and tramway in England.

**REGRET.**—A note of apology declining an invitation. Used in the same manner as "P.P.C."

**REGULATORS.**—A band of Judge Lynch's henchmen. Also called VIGILANCE COMMITTEES.

Some dozen men met in Bill Hughes' store and agreed to rid themselves of Harris at once; and forming themselves into a band of REGULATORS . . . they laid their plans and put them into execution at once.—*Lynch Law in the Sucker State*, 1873.

**RELAND, To.**—Having embarked on board a vessel to return to shore.

**RELIABLE GENTLEMEN.**—A reporter's term, generally used when "copy" needs an extra amount of bolstering. About as reliable as the "oldest inhabitant," or the source of the police-constable's "information received."

**RELIGION.**—TO GET RELIGION.—A cant term among certain religious bodies, signifying to become impressed with religious views. It is far better for *religion* to get hold of a

man than for a man to secure a mortgage on *religion*—a distinction with an enormous difference.

**RELIGIOUS.**—It is amusing to hear a Western man ask of another, when about to purchase a horse, "Is he *religious*?" "Is it free from vice?" (Query: do they have in mind the Egyptian *Ibis religiosa*?) A mustang is generally anything in the world but *religious*, for he will both "sull" (have the sulks) and BUCK (*q.v.*).

**REMIIND, To.**—In New York often used for "remember."

**REMONTHA.**—A term (from the Spanish) in use on the plains to signify a group of saddle-horses.

**RENDITION.**—A rendering; an announcement.

Mrs. T. S. Kennedy, of New Orleans, who gave a solo from "Galatea," was lovely in a costume of crimson velvet and satin. Her charming vocal RENDITIONS captivated all who were fortunate enough to hear this accomplished vocalist.—*Times Democrat*, February 5th, 1888.

**RENDITIOUS.**—Small; mean; petty.

**RENEWEDLY.**—A vulgarism for over and over again; repeatedly.

**REPEATER.**—A voter who registers his vote more than once—an old electioneering dodge.

**REPETITIOUS.**—With repetition; reiteratively.

**REPORTORIAL.**—Pertaining to the duties of a reporter. A newspaper term, and an exceedingly ill-formed word.

There is a callow youth in the interior of the State who writes periodically as follows:—"Inclosed are some newspaper articles—my poorest work as correspondent

of *The Age*. I want a situation on your paper as a reporter. Reporting is my forte. I have been told a great many times that I could do better REPORTORIAL work than ever I saw in your paper. I can also write politics. I am willing to come for thirty dollars per week as a starter, but will expect more as my writings begin to boom up the circulation. Let me hear from you at once, as I have several offers under advisement."—*M. Quad, in Detroit Free Press, 1888.*

**REPRINT.**—Says De Vere, "An Americanism as far as it denotes the republication, here (in America), of a work printed in a foreign country. It certainly used to be a charming euphemism in olden days, when the works of British authors were issued here without their sanction, and without giving them a fair compensation—a *régime* happily unknown in our day." English authors will rub their eyes at this statement. *Nous verrons ce que nous verrons!*

**REPROBACY.**—The state of being reprobate.

**REPUBLICANS.**—One of the two great political parties of the United States. The name "Democratic Republicans" was first suggested by Citizen Gluet, in 1793, as a desirable substitute for ANTI-FEDERALISTS (*q.v.*). In 1805 the appellation "Democratic" was abandoned, and thenceforward a marked distinction was observable between *Republicans* and *Democrats*. The name subsequently fell into disuse, but was permanently revived as a political cognomen in 1856, its first National Convention having been held at Philadelphia in that year. The party came into power four years later, and subsequently abolished slavery, subdued the rebellion, guaranteed the perpetuity of the Union, and established a financial credit surpassing that of any nation in the world.

Its long lease of power was interrupted in 1884 on the election of Grover Cleveland as President, a reverse which has since been retrieved by the return in the current year of General Harrison.

**RESEARCHER.**—One who inquires closely into any subject. American by birth, but now common in application to both countries. *Psychical Researchers* will occur to mind as the familiar title of members of a well-known London society, engaged in the investigation of experimental psychology.

**RESERVATION.**—Land set apart or reserved for public use. Also **RESERVE.**—See **INDIAN RESERVATION.**

**RESOLUTE, TO.**—To make and pass resolutions. A newspaper word.

**RESOLVE.**—A resolution. The term is generally used in connection with the transactions of public bodies.

**RESPONSIBILITIES.**—A facetious name for children.

**RESTAURANTER.**—The keeper of a restaurant. The derivation of this new form is obvious.

A leading **RESTAURANTER** in New York has figured the average time of three thousand business men at their downtown luncheon as eight minutes. Evidently Gothamites believe in rapid transit in more ways than one.—*Daily Inter-Ocean, March 7, 1888.*

**RESTITUTIONISTS.**—The central doctrine of this religious body corresponds to that of Universalists, *i.e.*, a belief in the "restitution of all things—

That somehow good  
Will be the final goal of ill."

**RESULT.**—Webster defines this as the decision or determination of a council or deliberative assembly. Peculiar to New England.

**RESURRECT, TO.**—(1) To bring to light afresh; to renew.

The man's a crank, and wants to RESURRECT issues that were settled by blood and war twenty years ago.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, March, 1888.

—(2) To engage in body-snatching. Also to RESURRECTIONIZE.

**RETIRACY.**—(1) Retirement.—(2) a competency.

**RETIREMENT.**—Withdrawal; removal.

**REVAMP, TO.**—To mend; to patch up. Formerly an exclusively shoemaker's term. *Revamp* is now in colloquial use. Also to VAMP.

**REVERENT.**—Strong; potent. Neat whiskey is *reverent* whiskey.

**REVOCAL.**—A revocation.

**REVOLVER, SLANG TERMS FOR A.**—These are numerous. FIVE-SHOOTER and SIX-SHOOTER are, doubtless, quite familiar to English ears, but not so some of the Texan names for the weapon:—MEAT IN THE POT, BLUE LIGHTNING, PEACE-MAKER, MR. SPEAKER, BLACK-EYED SUSAN, PILL BOX, MY UNCONVERTED FRIEND.

**RHODY.**—Rhode Island. Sometimes LITTLE RHODY. This is the smallest of the American States, with 1,306 square miles. Texas, the largest, has 274,356 square miles.

**R. I.**—The abbreviation used in writing and printing for Rhode Island.

It takes every year 1,000,000 horses' tails to keep a Pawtucket, R. I., haircloth factory

in running order.—*Troy Daily Times*, February 4, 1888.

**RIATA.**—A LARIAT (*q.v.*) or noosed rope used in catching or tethering cattle. The Spanish form was *la reata*—hence *riata* is nearer in derivation than the more commonly employed LARIAT.

**RIB-BENDER** (Cant).—A severe blow in the side.

**RICE BIRD.**—(1) A nickname for a South Carolinian.

For a very obvious reason the South Carolinians are called RICE BIRDS. Wherever in the South you see a man take boiled rice on his plate, and eat it heartily without condiments, you may know he is a South Carolinian, as infallibly as you may that a man is plebian-bred when he picks his teeth in the horse car without holding his hand before his mouth.—*Overland Monthly*.

—(2) A Southern name for the BOBOLINK (*q.v.*).

**RICHARDANARY** (Cant).—A dictionary. In English cant this is simply called a "Richard" or "Dick."

**RICHWEED.**—See STONE-ROOT.

**RICHWOOD** (*Pilea pumila*).—Also called CLEARWEED (*q.v.*).

**RIDE, TO.**—To carry; to convey by cart. A New York term.

I heard a witness in a court-room testify that he had RODE some hogs from the wharf to the store, by which he meant that he had carried a load of dead hogs on his cart.—*Bartlett*.

—To RIDE AND TIE.—A term descriptive, in Maryland and the South, of a "share-and-share-alike" arrangement when there is only one-horse, or one place in a vehicle between two travellers. One will ride a certain agreed distance, then dismount and walk



whilst the other takes his place. —TO RIDE ON A RAIL; to be subjected to Lynch law as described under RAIL. —OUT OF RIDE.—A river is *out of ride* when unfordable on horseback. —RIDING ROCK.—A landmark in the middle of a stream which, if covered by water, is an indication to a traveller that the river is unfordable. —RIDING WAY. —A ford.

**RIDER.**—Mr. C. Nordhoff thus explains the American usage regarding this word.

In legislative practice a RIDER is a bill added to another bill, though not necessarily belonging with it, so that the two may be passed together as one bill. This is usually done in the case of a measure which is sure to be vetoed if presented by itself, but which, if attached to some important appropriation bill, must necessarily be approved. In common speech, a RIDER is the top-rail of a zig-zag fence. Such a fence is staked and RIDERED, when stakes are driven in the angles and a RIDER laid on top of them. A RIDER is not an essential part of the fence, but it adds considerably to its effectiveness.

—RIDERS.—Cowboys or cow-punchers are so called.—See COW-BOY.

**RIFFLE.**—An obstruction; and, metaphorically, a misunderstanding or quarrel. A corruption of "ripple"; primarily applied to the rocks which, in the Susquehanna river, impede navigation, but now colloquial.

Mr. Hynes and Anna Jones were very good friends, but nevertheless they ran across some pretty rapid RIFFLES in the river of life. They succeeded in getting over all of them safely until about three weeks ago, when an extra rough one capsize their bark and they drifted apart, and their fond friendship sank like a stone.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, March 7, 1888.

**RIGHT.** —A colloquialism, which, though but a slight deflection from English usage, may be classed as

an Americanism on account of its much more frequent use among all classes of society. Everything that is to an American's satisfaction is *right*. He is *right* comfortable when at ease with himself and the world; *right* here, is "on the spot" as regards locality, or "instant" as regards time; and is found in the Chester plays; *right* along, conveys an idea of uninterrupted sequence—without a break. Similarly *right* away, is synonymous with "on the spur of the moment," directly, and is a variant of "straightway." *Right* off—directly; and *to rights*, translated by 'Arry as "ter rights" is varied by *right* smart, and *right* straight, all of them indicative of the highest praise in whatever connection they may found.—See also SMART.—TO RIGHT UP.—To put in order.—TO HOLD THE RIGHT BOWER OVER ONE.—A term derived from poker, meaning to be sure of one's ground; to have the whip hand.

There is nothing left for me but to move on and try somewhere else. *Væ victis!* I fondly thought, when I spent my money for a horse and carriage, that I HELD THE RIGHT BOWER; but I have found that Benedict has the joker. And now, before trying my fortune in a new field, I must have, cost what it may, a wife. Bitter experience, as well as the tenor of your editorial, convinces me of it.—*Portland Transcript*, March 7, 1888.

**RILE, TO.**—The Old English *roil* or *royl*, to render a liquid turbid, and metaphorically to stir up anger. This is an undoubted instance of a word which had long been obsolete in England, but retained in America, gradually making its way again into public favor and use.

But at the very moment that I was exalting my advantage and joying in it in secret, there was a muddy under-current of discomfort RILING the deeps of my happiness.—*Mark Twain's Screemers*.

The use of *riley* as an adjective, however, is still confined to the New World—*e.g.*, "that man has a *riley* way of putting things." Compare with Icelandic *hrella*, to distress.

**RING.**—A combination of persons, a clique, or faction who play into each other's hands for mutual advantage. It appears to have come into general use shortly after the Civil War. — **RING SNAKE.**—A species of blacksnake once common in New England. — **RING-TAILED ROARER, or ROARER.**—A noisy self-assertive individual; at first the term designated a strong active man, or a "fine" woman. The meaning, however, has undergone considerable change of late. Also **RINGCLIPPER.**

**RIO.**—A telegraphic abbreviation of Rio de Janeiro.

**RIP.**—**LET HER RIP!**—*See under LET.*  
—**TO RIP out.**—To talk vehemently; to swear.

One man said it was getting towards the long days and short nights now. T'other one said this warn't one of the short ones, he reckoned—and then they laughed, and he said it over again; and they laughed again; then they waked up another fellow and told him and laughed, but he didn't laugh; he **RIPPED** out something brisk, and said let him alone.—*Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, p. 55.

**RIPPER or MASON RIPPER.**—(1) A new and ingenious implement of burglary, used in opening safes or vaults with iron surfaces. — (2) An active, brisk, or lively person.

**RIP-RAP, To.**—In river embankment to throw down stone for foundations, allowing it to find its own level.

Near the foot of the lake the Chippewa river pours a swift and under current into the Mississippi, and here we find ourselves in conflict, as it were, with a great and influen-

tial interest. The government has **RIP-RAPPED** the banks of the river; made sunken dams of stone and brush to turn the current into more convenient channels.—*Portland Transcript*, March 14, 1888.

**RIP-ROARING.**—Brisk; lively. A combination of "to rip," and "to roar."

Of the earlier stage coaching days, with their struggles and rivalry of lines I will say nothing in detail. One luminous fact sticks out in the page of history, however, which is worth repeating, and that is at one time, as the result of a **RIP-ROARING** rate war between rival lines, the fare between St. Paul and Minneapolis went down to ten cents, just one-third the price charged for a ride between the cities in these days of steam and grinding railroad corporations.—*St. Paul and Minneapolis Pioneer Press*, July 22, 1888.

**RIP-SNORTER.**—An active dashing individual or thing. A commonly colloquial intensive. Sometimes **RIP-STAYER.** Also **RIP-SNORTING.**

I have always claimed that journalism could be taught in universities and colleges just as successfully as any other athletic exercise. Of course you cannot teach a boy how to jerk a giant journal from the clutches of decay and make of it a robust and **RIP-SNORTING** shaper and trimmer of public opinion, in whose counting room people will walk over each other in their mad efforts to insert advertisements. You cannot teach this in a school any more than you can teach a boy how to discover the open Polar sea, but you can teach him the rudiments and save him a good deal of time experimenting with himself.—*Bill Nye, in New York World*, August, 1888.

**RISE.**—**AND THE RISE**, *i.e.*, upwards of; more than; exceeding. Also **RISING**, in the same sense. *Ex.*: "Jonesville now contains a matter of four hundred houses *and the rise*," or "Jonesville now has *rising* four hundred houses."

**RIVER.**—The general rule in America is to place the name after *river* instead of before it. Thus, if the transatlantic custom were prevalent in England, we should say Thames *river*, Mersey *river*, Trent *river*, etc.

There are a few exceptions to this rule, but not many.—**RIVER BOTTOMS.**—See **BOTTOM LANDS.**—**RIVER-DRIVER.**—A lumberman's term for the man in charge of log-rafts, when floating them down the waterways to market.

**RIZ** for "rose" and "raised," is a very common New England vulgarism.

**ROACH.**—A cockroach.—To **ROACH**, applied to the cutting of horses' manes, is the equivalent of the English "to hog."

**ROANOKE.**—A Virginian generic name for Indian shell-money.

**ROAR, To.**—To make a mark; to be successful.

Another instance of the curious fact that few men, if any, are capable judges of their own mental efforts, comes to light in the statements just made by Ward Lamon in regard to the comments of Abraham Lincoln on his speech at the dedication of the Gettysburg cemetery. Mr. Lincoln was exceedingly nervous about it, regretting that he had no more time for its preparation. Upon finishing its delivery he said: 'Lamon, that speech won't **ROAR**! It is a flat failure, and the people are disappointed.' And yet Mr. Emerson used to repeat the conviction that this speech was one of the two greatest specimens of eloquence the world had ever heard, either in ancient or modern days. Nor was Emerson wrong in his high admiration. For depth of patriotic emotion, for justness of thought, for unselfish, disinterested sentiments, for terse, epigrammatic sentences, for expressiveness of diction and originality of collocation, this brief oration has no equal—probably in any tongue.—*The Christian at Work*, July 1888.

—**ROARER, OF RINGTAIL ROARER.**  
—A noisy man.—See under **RING**.

**ROASTING EARS.**—Half-ripe Indian corn roasted before a fire or in hot ashes. Cooked in this fashion, and eaten with butter, the ears of maize are very toothsome.

For the rest, their demands upon the land were always very modest—a few bushels of taters, for roasting in the ashes; a small field of maize, for **ROASTING-EARS**; hominy; and corn-dodgers; and such pumpkins and beans as could be grown intermingled with the hills of corn, were about all that one of these primitive families required, beyond what could be got with a gun or a fishing-line.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

**ROBE.**—The dressed skin of buffalo. The term was formerly exclusively applied to the prepared hide of that animal, but of late other large skins are also called *robes*. A **PACK OF ROBES** was ten in number.

A large pair of Russian bear **ROBES**, jet black, trimmed with heavy fine beaver cloth; also fine set of single buggy harness, built to order; will sell for less than one-third value.—Mrs. **RYAN**, 254, West 38th St., Arthur Flats.—*New York Herald*, November 4, 1883.

**ROBERT OF LINCOLN.**—The **BOBOLINK** (*q.v.*).

**ROBIN** (*Turdus migratorius*).—This is a thrush, and bears only a slight resemblance to the robin redbreast of England.

**ROBUSTIOUS.**—This, translated into the everyday speech of venturesome people, means robust—nothing more, and nothing less.

**ROCK.**—Used throughout the Union, where in England the word "stone" would be employed. It sounds strange, however, to English ears to speak of a door-step as a *door-rock*, or to talk of boys throwing *rocks* at one another.

We are old enough to be cold and callous to everything from a cyclone to an earthquake, but we never see a left-handed woman shying rocks at a hen in the garden without wanting to go into a corner and enjoy a quiet cry.—*Fall River Advance*, 1888.

Say, if you give me much more of your sass, I'll take and bounce a rock off'n your head.—*Mark Twain's Tom Sawyer*, p. 23.

—To **ROCK.**—To throw stones.  
—**ROCKAWAY.**—A light one-horse



vehicle.—**ROCK-BED**.—A foundation; and idiomatically the root of a matter; the gist of a question. Also **ROCK-BOTTOM**, which is a variant; thus it may be said, that at *rock-bottom* men love kindness, gentleness, and womanliness in the fairer half of humanity, more than a dashing style.—*See* **BED-ROCK**.

The ballot in the hand of the people has accomplished a great change in modes of government, and cannot be taken away, without a war such as history never recorded. It is the star of hope for suffering mankind. It is the **ROCK-BOTTOM** of all reforms.—(*Boston*) *Sturdy Oak*, May, 1888.

—**ROCK-COD**.—A red colored variety of cod; Massachusetts.

—**ROCK-FISH** (*Labrax lineatus*).—Also known as the **STRIPED BASS** (*q.v.*).—**ROCKER**.—(1) A miner's machine for washing gold; (2) A rocking-chair.

**ROCKED IN A STONE CRADLE, TO BE** (Cant).—To be born in prison.

**RODEO**.—A Spanish term for a **ROUND-UP** (*q.v.*).

**ROGUE**.—A market gardener's term, explained by quotation.

Take the cabbage, for example. At a certain age it must be just a certain height and size; its color must be exactly the shade of the type, and it must be firm. If it comes up to all these requirements it is a proper plant for seeding. If it does not, if it is too high or too broad, or too light in color or not firm enough it is a **ROGUE**—every plant that is not up to the type is a **ROGUE**—and is thrown out. In a field of cabbage there will be three grades—first, the type which the grower saves for his next year's seeding; next the first-class **ROGUES**, which are seeded for market growers, and next the second-class **ROGUES**, which are also sold to the market.—*Missouri Republican*, March 4, 1888.

—**ROGUE** (Cant).—A man — Query: on the Psalmist's showing that "all men are liars"—or *rogues*.

**ROKEAGE**.—Parched Indian corn, ground to a meal and mixed with sugar. Sometimes **YOKEAGE**.

**ROLLING COUNTRY**.—An undulating country. Also **ROLLING PRAIRIES**.—**ROLLING ROADS**.—In Maryland and Virginia tobacco was formerly rolled to market in hog-heads along the public roads.

**ROLL OUT, TO**.—To commence an undertaking. South-western.

**ROME COVE** (Cant).—A president. —**ROME MORT**.—The president's wife, or the "lady of the White House." —**ROMEVILLE**.—New York.

**RONCHER**.—A general signification of size and superlativeness pertains to this word. Thus, what in England in reference to a knotty point would be called a "teaser," is in the American vernacular a *roncher*. An overwhelming calamity, a stunning blow, a grand coup of fortune, etc., would be thus designated. Compare with **SOCDOLAGER**.

**ROOKERY**.—A Californian term for a school of seals.

**ROOM, TO**.—To lodge; or occupy a room.

"How do you know that she has eloped with Curtis?" Chief Huebler asked. "Because Curtis **ROOMED** next door and he has been missing for two days, and I can't find him, that's why," he replied.—*Missouri Republican*, February 11, 1888.

I was a newspaper scribbler, and it was my sketches of domestic happiness—written while I **ROOMED** over a beer saloon—that first caused her to feel an interest in me.—*Opie P. Read, in Arkansas Traveler*.

—So also **ROOMER**.

What is the matter, that women who have no home find it so difficult to obtain what passes for one even by paying for it?

What advantage has a man over a woman as ROOMER or boarder?—*Chicago Tribune*, 1888.

—ROOMKEEPING.—A verb formed on the model of "housekeeping." Living in a room.

**ROORBACK.**—A false statement; a bogus newspaper article. In 1844 alleged extracts from the *Travels of Baron Roorback* were published for political purposes, and the ruse was so successful that *roorback* became a general term for a political forgery or fiction.

**ROOSTER.**—A male fowl; a cock. This word is the product of absurd mock-modesty.—*See* LIMB.

**ROPE, TO, OR ROPE IN, TO.**—To catch and secure an animal by means of a lasso or lariat. A Western term, which has passed into colloquial use. Idiomatically *to rope in* a man is to secure him in a business or social venture, and sometimes to his disadvantage.

If not breaking horses, mending saddles, or doing something else of the sort, the cowboys will often while away their leisure moments by practising with the ROPE. A man cannot practise too much with this if he wishes to attain even moderate proficiency; and, as a matter of fact, he soon gets to wish to practice the whole time. A cowboy is always ROPING something, and it especially delights him to try his skill at game. A friend of mine, a young ranchman in the Judith basin, about three years ago ROPED a buffalo, and, by the exercise of the greatest skill, both on his own part and on his steed's, actually succeeded, by alternate bullying and coaxing, in getting the huge brute almost into camp. I have occasionally known men on fast horses TO ROPE deer, and even antelope, when circumstances all joined to favor them; and last summer one of the cowboys, on a ranch about thirty miles off, ran into and ROPED a wounded elk. A forty-foot lariat is the one commonly used, for the ordinary range at which a man can use it is only about twenty-five feet. Few men can throw forty feet; and to do this, taking into account the coil, needs a sixty-foot ROPE.—*Century Magazine*, 1887.

—Hence ROPER or ROPER-IN.—One who ropes in, in either sense of the word.

In following an animal on horseback the man keeps steadily swinging the rope round his head, by a dexterous motion of the wrist only, until he gets a chance to throw it; when on foot, especially if catching horses in a corral, the loop is allowed to draw loosely on the ground. A good ROPER will hurl out the coil with marvellous accuracy and force; it fairly whistles through the air, and settles round the object with almost infallible certainty. Mexicans make the best ROPERS; but some Texans are very little behind them.—*Roosevelt's Ranch Life in the Far West*.

**ROSE-APPLE** (*Jambosa vulgaris*).—A West Indian fruit, which derives its name from its perfume.

**ROSEBUD.**—Young unmarried women.

**ROSIN-WEED** (*Silphium laciniatum*).—Also COMPASS PLANT (*q.v.*).

**ROSS.**—An English provincialism colloquial in New England and the Middle States for the parasitic scaly excrescence found on trees.

**ROSTRUM.**—In England platform is almost invariably employed when referring to a speaker's desk; *rostrum*, however, is the favorite word in America.

The desk is the journalistic ROSTRUM—the pen is his instrument. Let him keep his hands and conscience clean before God and men, and the power for good that is given to him is greater than that of presidents, or cabinets, or kings or czars.—*Minneapolis Tribune*, 1888.

**ROTE.**—The sound of surf before a storm. New England.

**ROT-GUT.**—An Old English term for bad, small beer, but which in America is used of cheap, fiery whiskey.

**ROUGHNESS.**—All over the South they feed a horse *roughness* (any kind of fodder, as distinguished from grain), but in Texas they stake him out, and he gets nothing else but *roughness*.

**ROUGH-SCUFF.**—The "great unwashed"; the mob.

**ROUNDER.**—A New York slang term for a man given to the company of the demi-monde.

The New York Sun has fitted an attractive new dress on a very old story of the New York girl's annihilation of a would-be masher who chanced to be in the same Broadway car with her. He was a typical New Yorker of the genius **ROUNDER**, and she was a self-possessed, neatly dressed, black-eyed, iridescent and generally dazzling beauty.—*Exchange*, 1888.

It was only then that he became aware of the life his only daughter was leading. He at once came to St. Paul, found out the location of the house, and went to it in the hope of reclaiming his child. The doorbell was answered by the housekeeper, and although he was a venerable looking old gentleman with almost white hair and beard, she mistook him for some gay old **ROUNDER**, and welcomed him as warmly as she would any of the other numerous callers.—*Nashville American*, 1888.

**ROUND ROBIN** (Cant).—A burglar's instrument.

**ROUND-UP.**—On the plains of the Western and South-western States over which cattle range in search of food, the periodical "stock-taking" is called a *round-up*. In this respect the cowboys use of the term coincides with the exact sense in which it is used by the hill people and mountaineers of Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina, with whom labor is dear and poor land cheap, and whose few cattle are consequently branded and turned loose in the woods exactly as is done with the great herds on the plains.

The great cattle associations divide the State or territory into districts and appoint a **ROUND-UP** for each, which takes place in the spring and fall. Each ranch sends its representatives and provision wagon with a cook, and they meet at a point previously appointed and a foreman is chosen. Each man has a string of six or more horses, and on his way to the **ROUND-UP** rides one, packs his bed on another, and drives the others. The men are called at three o'clock in the morning and, after a hasty breakfast of bacon and coffee, some are detailed by the foreman to ride out and drive all the cattle they can find within a certain radius into camp, while the others keep them in a herd, when they are driven in. As soon as they are all driven in, the representatives of each outfit, in turn, ride through them and cut out every animal with their brand upon it and herd them apart. Occasionally a cow breaks away from the herd and a rider starts after her at full speed, and after an exciting chase drives her back again. When the cutting out is completed each outfit begins to brand its calves. A rider ropes a calf by the hind leg, throws it and drags it towards the fire; one man then holds it by the hind legs, while another sits on its shoulder and it is branded on its side and has its ear notched. This is an exciting scene as the calves are bleating, the men shouting, roping and wrestling with them and the fires are blazing. Sometimes when they rope a vigorous young steer they have great difficulty in holding him and it requires five or six men to do so. The night is divided into watches of two hours' length and the men take turns in keeping the cattle in a herd. It is the most exciting part of the cattle business, but it is a very hard life, as a man is in the saddle all day and only gets a few hours' sleep.

**ROUND-WOOD.**—A Maine term for the MOUNTAIN ASH.

**ROUSER.**—Something striking or startling, from a piece of news to a dissipated man. Also a great talker.

The old boat was a **ROUSER**,—the biggest on the drink, had the best officers, and paid the best prices.—*New York Spirit of the Times*.

**ROUSTABOUT.**—A laborer on board a Mississippi steamer. These men are usually exceedingly "rough diamonds."

Our boat is a travelling storehouse of curiously mixed merchandise. At one plantation we put off a consignment of crackers,



at another a baby's cradle, at another a mule. Before the bows touch the bank a row of ROUSTABOUTS stand on the plank, one with a barrel, another with a bag of fertilizer, a third with a box or bale—eight or ten of them ready to rush ashore. The moment the last article is landed, the mate shouts 'get aboard' and 'hoist away,' and up goes the great plank into the air while the crew come running in.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1888.

**ROUTING CLERKS.**—Clerks in the U.S. Telegraph Service who despatch messages.

As the messages drop they are taken out, slid through steam rollers that copy them, and drop them on a revolving, endless belt, that takes them off to the ROUTING CLERKS, the messengers.—*New York Tribune*, 1888.

**ROVERS** (Cant).—The thoughts.

**ROW.**—HARD or LONG ROW TO HOE.—One of the most familiar similes of American speech. Drawn from the cultivation of corn or potatoes, the metaphor signifies what is difficult of execution or hard of attainment.

I know that burglars claim they are poorly paid because their work keeps them up nights so much, but newspaper men have to work nights also, and unless they can rob a prosperous burglar once in a while, they have a HARD ROW TO HOE.—*Bill Nye, in The New York World*.

We give the critter's back, John,  
'Cos Abram thought 'twas right.  
It warn't your bullying clack, John,  
Provokin' us to fight.  
Ole Uncle J., sez he, 'I guess  
We've a HARD ROW,' says he,  
'To HOE jest now, but thet somehow,  
May heppen to J.B.,  
Ez wal ez you an' me!'  
—*J. R. Lowell's Jonathan to John*.

**ROW UP, TO.**—To rebuke; to "call over the coals." This is an essentially Western phrase, and is derived from the practice of making refractory slaves or servants row up the heavy keel-boats of early navigation on the Western rivers, against the current, without being frequently relieved. It was thus regarded as a punishment.—To

ROW UP SALT RIVER.—To defeat, politically or otherwise.—*See* SALT RIVER.

**ROYAL NIBS.**—HIS ROYAL NIBS!—A contemptuous term of address.

I came down along the edge of a big ledge and I saw a pair of bare feet sticking in a cleft of a ledge. I knew it was HIS ROYAL NIBS right off, and calling John Rogers, I got a rope, and, reaching in, I put it around his legs and dragged him out.—*New York Sunday Democrat*, 1888.

**RUBBED OUT.**—Killed. A term adopted from the figurative language of the Indians.

There was old Sam Owins—him as got RUBBED OUT by the Spaniards at Sacramento, or Chihuahuy, this hos doesn't know which, but he went under, anyhow.—*Ruxton's Life in the Far West*.

**RUBBERS.**—India-rubber over-shoes.—*See* GUMS.

The trio had RUBBERS on their feet, but they came upstairs without trying very hard to prevent making a noise.—*New York Sun*, 1888.

There has been a wonderful increase of late years in the demand for RUBBERS, and they have almost supplanted the heavy over-shoe, so popular a few seasons ago. Lately the sales of RUBBERS have almost doubled.—*Dealer, in Globe Democrat*, 1888.

**RUDDER-FISH** (*Palinurus percaformis*).—A fish described as "very beautiful," and which abounds in the waters of the Southern States.

**RUINATIONIS.**—Ruinous.

**RULLICHIES.**—A kind of sausage once thought much of amongst the old Dutch settlers.

**RUM.**—In some parts of the country rum is a general name for all kinds of spirit—brandy, whiskey, gin, and rum. — RUM BUD.—A "grog blossom"; a pimply eruption on the face caused by excessive tip-

pling. — RUM HOLE. — A New York term for a low drinking shop; as also is RUM MILL. — "RUM, ROMANISM, and REBELLION!" — The rallying cry of the Presidential Election of 1884, which it is believed resulted in the breaking of the long record of power enjoyed by the Republican party. The following is the explanation given by the author of *Political Americanisms* :—

During the closing days of the presidential campaign of 1884, a ministers' meeting was held at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, in New York, in the interest of the Republicans. Some five hundred attended, all denominations being nominally represented. The principal address was made by a Protestant divine, who committed the extraordinary blunder of stigmatizing the Democrats as the party of RUM, ROMANISM, AND REBELLION. Mr. Blaine, who was present, failed to make a fitting rejoinder, but the Democratic managers were not slow to make the most of the mistake. The country was placarded with these three fatal R's, and, as the result proved, this bit of alliteration lost the battle for the Republican party. The vote was so close in New York State, that the result was for some days in doubt, and as the national result depended on this vote, a dangerous excitement prevailed. The State was eventually found to have gone Democratic by only 1,149 votes, and it is believed that far more than that number were lost by the Republicans in consequence of the momentous remark with which the reverend gentleman concluded his address.

—RUM SUCKER.—An habitual toper.

**RUN.**—The New England brook is a CREEK, or a *run* in the West. — To RUN.—This verb does yeoman's service in the multifarious senses of to cause to *run*; to manage; to have charge. A minister *runs* a church, an editor a newspaper, a political party a candidate, and the Government the national machine. A few quotations will well exemplify the different usages.

The young Emperor of Germany seems to be fairly spoiling for a fight. He is also inflated with the idea that he was born to RUN the universe.—*Texas Siftings*, Sept. 22, 1888.

A petition was received from H. H. Darling, Brother & Co. and others, asking that a lower and uniform rate of tax be set for the use of water to RUN elevators. The rates are from ten to twenty cents a thousand gallons, the largest consumers paying the least. A uniform rate of fifteen cents for 1,000 gallons was decided upon.—*Troy Daily Times*, February 7, 1888.

The term is also used when an applicant *runs* for or seeks an appointment.

The astounding declaration is made that George Washington, the founder of the white man's country, contracted a morganatic marriage with a beautiful Indian queen in the Ohio Valley, and left by her a son who rose to the highest honors among his dusky people and left a name in history. It is made by an Ohio man who had no apparent object in view except the truth, and who was not at the time RUNNING for office. He says he heard it from the lips of Isaac Zane, the great Buckeye, after whose family Zanesville, O., was named, and who was in the early times a captive in the camp of the great Chief Cornplanter. Cornplanter was this alleged son of Washington. The annals of Indian wars and of the settlement of the Ohio Valley are full of Cornplanter; but he has so far publicly escaped the responsibility of being the son of the Father of his Country.—*The World*, May 13, 1888.

From these applications of the verb to *run* is derived the slang phrase TO RUN ONE'S FACE, signifying to obtain credit. — To BE RUN HARD. — To be landed in difficulties—an expression handed down to colloquial speech by the hunter and trapper who *run* their prey very hard. Of the same derivation probably is — To RUN INTO THE GROUND. — To mar a cause, action, or speech by overdoing it. — To RUN UPON. — To make fun of; to quiz.

**RUNNER.**—(1) See TICKET-SCALPER. — (2) An engine driver.

SCRIBNER'S NONSENSE.—Well we'll find a name for him after a while, and it ought to be a good one when we get it. We used to call the man who rides on the right hand side of a locomotive engine the engineer, then put a little English on it and got to calling him the driver, and now *Scribner's Magazine* comes along and calls him a RUNNER. It's

all right, we reckon, only we stick to it that a locomotive goes on wheels and not on RUNNERS.—*Detroit Free Press*, October 6, 1888.

—(3) **RUNNER**.—A tout.

Back and forth before the offices of the big transatlantic steamship lines, may, on almost any day, be observed certain men pacing the pavements, eagerly scanning the face of every person who approaches. If that person happens to inspire in the minds of these watchers any remote hint that he might be desirous of purchasing a passage across the ocean, he is at once approached with offers to assist him in his search. The name of the port to which he wants to go being elicited, the RUNNERS will at once compete with each other for the honor of introducing him to the agent from whom he can obtain the best and cheapest passage. The man is at once dragged off, perplexed, but somewhat tempted by the offer of a cheaper fare than that which he had been led to expect, to the steamship office where the RUNNER who has him in charge can obtain the largest commission upon the purchase of his ticket.—*New York Commercial Advertiser*, 1888.

**RUN OF STONES**.—A pair of mill stones.

**RUNT**.—A small diminutive man or beast is called a *runt*. There is a Yankee proverb also which runs—  
"Every family has its *runt*."

**RUSH**.—To RUSH THE GROWLER.—  
Explained by quotation.

One evil of which the inspectors took particular notice was that of the employment by hands in a number of factories of boys and girls, under ten and thirteen years, to fetch beer for them, or in other words to RUSH THE GROWLER. The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children will no doubt be informed in regard to this matter.—*New York Herald*, July 29, 1888.

**RUSHERS**.—A miner's term for persons proceeding to the diggings. From the "rush" which generally takes place when a new and profitable "find" is announced.

**RUSTLE, To**.—(1) To grapple with circumstances; to rise superior to all contingencies. Cattle, in winter, *rustle* for food by "nosing" through the snow to the dried

grass beneath.—(2) To be active; quick; expeditious.

The little man started toward the desk. He had scarcely opened conversation with the cashier, however, when, unseen by him, the breakfast arrived. Steak, coffee, rolls and four boiled eggs, were duly arranged on the table. The large woman stood on no ceremony. She glanced at the distant form of her husband and began to open eggs. When she had broken three into her own glass, she said sharply: 'Waiter, my husband is loafing around over there by the desk; go and tell him that I've eaten one of his eggs already, and if he doesn't RUSTLE himself I'll eat the other.'—*Troy Daily Times*, February 4, 1888.

**RUSTLER**.—An active busy individual.

Formerly a ranchman's term for a cook, and as it required considerable activity and energy to provide the whole army of cowboys and herders on a ranch with their three meals per diem, it was by no means a violent transition when the term got to mean any man peculiarly alert and energetic. By a still further amplification of its meaning it signifies one who never succumbs to circumstances. This is about the highest compliment that can be paid to a man, who, failing in one thing, finds something else available for his support. A still further extension has led to a deterioration of meaning as when it signifies the abuse of the powers of activity and craft in which case a *rustler* may mean a thief and swindler.

But, pard, he was a RUSTLER.—*Mark Twain's The Innocents at Home*, p. 20.

**RUSTY DAB** (*Platessa ferruginea*).—A Massachusetts fish. Also called RUSTY FLAT-FISH.

**RYDER** (Cant).—A cloak.

**RYE**.—A curtailed form for *rye* whiskey.—**RYE AND INDIAN**.—A New England name for bread made of *Indian and rye* meal.





**ABBADAY.**—An old New England corruption of "Sabbath Day."

— **SABBADAY HOUSES.** — Houses near a Church or Meeting-house used by those coming long

distances to their place of worship. A relic of a time when population was sparse.

**SABE.**—This Spanish word has become thoroughly naturalized in the States, constant contact with Spaniards and Americans of Spanish descent having done much to familiarize the nation at large with many terms drawn from the language in question. *Sabe* in a man implies shrewdness; thoughtful care; or, in colloquial English, gumption.

A gang o' lazy drunken loafers, and that ar Dick Bullen's the ornariest of all. Didn't have no more *SABE* than to come round yar with sickness in the house and no provision.  
—*Bret Harte's How Santa Claus came to Simpson's Bar.*

**SACATRA.**—See **MULATTO.**

**SACHEM.**—(1) A ruler or chief of an Indian tribe.

The White Man came; his bayonets gleam

Where **SACHEMS** held their sway,  
And, like the shadow of a dream,  
Our tribe has passed away!

—*Bryant's Last of the Red Men.*

—(2) The Indians thus name the **FLICKER** (*Picus amatus*) on account

of his bravery.—See **FLICKER.**—**SACHEMDOM** or **SACHEMSHIP.**—Pertaining to *Sachem* government.

**SACK.**—A small bag used as a purse.

On Sunday night, at the California theatre, a man in the gallery was thrown down and robbed of \$90 dols. in gold. The theatre was packed when Albert and Louis Mudhenk entered the gallery, accompanied by their sister. Albert carried in a **SACK**, tucked in his right hip pocket, \$90 dols., mostly in double eagles.—*Troy Daily Times*, January 31, 1888.

—**SACK COAT.**—A tweed cloth coat.

Another thing very often noticed here is the wearing of silk hats with **SACK COATS**, which is in exceedingly bad form, and stamps the wearer as one not up in social mannerisms.—*St. Paul and Minneapolis Pioneer Press*, July 22, 1888.

**SAFE.**—This word is commonly used instead of larder.—**SAFE-BLOWERS.**—Burglars who give their attention to "cracking" safes and strong-rooms.

Early last evening word was received that two notorious characters had been arrested in Chicago and charged with committing the murder of Snell. Both were said to have lived in this city for fourteen years, and were described as crooks and **SAFE-BLOWERS.**—*St. Louis Daily Globe Democrat*, 1888.

**SAG, To.**—To bend; give way; yield. This dictionary word can hardly be classed as colloquial in England. In America, however, it is common.

Provisions opened strong from sympathy with wheat. Later news came from the

yards and from other packing points that the hog receipts were larger than the earlier estimates, then prices SAGGED some.—*Missouri Republican*, 1888.

**SAGAMORE.**—A ruler or chief among certain Indian tribes; a **SACHEM** (*q.v.*).

**SAGE BRUSH** (*Artemisia ludoviciana*).—This shrub has been thus described by Mark Twain.

An imposing monarch of the forest in exquisite miniature, is the **SAGE BRUSH**. Its foliage is a grayish green, and gives that tint to desert and mountain. It smells like our domestic sage, and sage-tea made from it tastes like the sage-tea which all boys are so well acquainted with. The **SAGE-BRUSH** is a singularly hardy plant, and grows right in the midst of deep sand, and among barren rocks, where nothing else in the vegetable world would try to grow, except bunch-grass. The **SAGE BUSHES** grow from three to six or seven feet apart, all over the mountains and desert of the Far West, clear to the borders of California. There is not a tree of any kind in the deserts, for hundreds of miles—there is no vegetation at all in a regular desert, except the **SAGE BRUSH** and its cousin the greasewood, which is so much like the **SAGE BRUSH** that the difference amounts to little. Camp-fires and hot suppers in the deserts would be impossible but for the friendly **SAGE BRUSH**. Its trunk is as large as a boy's wrist (and from that up to a man's arm), and its crooked branches are half as large as its trunk—all good, sound, hard wood, very like oak.—*Roughing It*.

—**SAGE-HEN** (*Centrocercus urophasianus*).—Otherwise known as the **COCK OF THE PLAINS** (*q.v.*), and for which the name of **SAGE-GROUSE** has been suggested.

**SAGNICTHS.**—A derisive political term applied by Germans to the **KNOW NOTHINGS** (*q.v.*). *Sagnichts* means, literally, Say Nothings—a bit of irony hardly to have been expected of staid and sober Hans Breitmann. Certainly those who know nothing can only be expected to say as much.

**SAINTS OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS.**—A self-imposed title of the Mormon body.—*See* **MORMON**.

**SALAMANDER.**—(1) A movable fire-grate.—(2) A name applied to a pouched-rat (*Geomys pinetis*); and in Florida, Georgia, and farther South to the *Menopoma alleghaniensis*, an animal allied to the salamander proper.—**SALAMANDER SAFE.**—A fire-proof safe. The origin of the name in this connection is obviously derived from the *salamander* of fabulous history.

**SALESLADY.**—*See* **LADY**.

**SALOON.**—A bar-room, every drinking place being thus dignified.

**SALT-BOTTOM.**—**BOTTOM-LAND** (*q.v.*) of a saline nature.—**SALT GRASS** and **SALT HAY.**—Grass and hay from salt marshes.—**SALT HORSE.**—The nickname given in the United States army to the salted beef supplied in their rations.—**SALT LICK.**—*See* **LICK.**—**SALT MEADOW.**—A kind of boggy grass-land to be met with on some parts of the New England coast.—**TO ROW UP SALT RIVER** is a phrase signifying defeat, discomfiture, and oblivion. The story goes that, in the early colony days, Salt River, a tributary of the Ohio, was a favorite stronghold of river-pirates, besides which navigation in its waters was difficult and tedious. Hence the idea of spoliation and irrevocable loss connected with it. The next stage of transition was easy; and the phrase was ultimately applied to defeated candidates for office, who, if badly beaten, were said to be rowed to the very head-waters of the stream.—**SALT WATER TAILOR** (*Temnodon saltator*).—The blue fish of the lower Potomac.—**SALT WATER**

VEGETABLES.—A New York term for clams; also sometimes applied to oysters.

**SAM.**—A name at one time applied to a member of the KNOW NOTHING (*q.v.*) or AMERICAN (*q.v.*) PARTY. The allusion is to UNCLE SAM, the national sobriquet, the Know Nothings claiming that in a nation mostly made up of immigrants, only native-born citizens should possess and exercise privileges and power.

**SAMBO.**—A name now applied to all colored persons, but originally used to designate the offspring of a black person and a mulatto; also sometimes the child of an Indian and a negro. Spelt also *zambo*, which, in Spanish, means bandy-legged. The term is very old for it occurs in an advertisement in the *New York Evening Post* of December 23, 1811, wherein a runaway slave is described as "a black boy, named Joab, aged 14, short for his age, small limbed, and very short fingers, is well-made, and has likely features, of a yellow complexion (being a *sambo*)." Variants are CUFFY, QUASHIE, etc.

**SAMPLE-ROOM.**—A grog-shop.

**SANCTIMONIOUSLYFIED.**—With sanctimony.

**SAND.**—To HAVE SAND, or, more fully, TO HAVE SAND IN ONE'S CRAW, also TO BE SANDY, to be determined; plucky; an equivalent is "to have grit." To be described as *sandy* is to have the highest meed of praise bestowed on one.

The two friends agreed entirely as to the unutterable loneliness of summer evenings in the country. The Westerner spoke of Eastern towns as graveyards, and of the men in them as fossils, and of the enter-

prising denizens of the West as having SAND in them.—*Portland Transcript*, 1887.

The two went at it hot and heavy, but presently the new boy came out on top, and all the others dropped down into the yard and offered him a bite of their apples, and declared him a good fellow. He had been tested and found SANDY.—*Detroit Free Press*, 1888.

A phrase expressive of imperturbability is, "The *sand* heap stood the shock with the utmost composure."

—SAND AUGER.—A curious phenomenon sometimes observed on wide plains where the atmosphere is hot and dry. *Sand augers* are miniature cyclones, or rotary storms, which, when occurring on a grand scale, as they do in the Western States, are known as tornadoes. —See SAND STORMS. —To SAND-BAG. —To commit robbery with violence, SANDBAGGERS being the name given to men engaged in the practice.

Kansas City is the only town in the world where women are SAND-BAGGED. Sam Jones' revival work in that city is a good deal like trying to put out the devil's lake of fire with an ear syringe.—*Missouri Republican*, Jan. 25, 1888.

—To BE SAND BLASTED. — A recent addition to the "Oaths Vocabulary."

'Sleigh-bells! Well, I'll BE SAND BLASTED!' said the business man. 'What do you mean by trying to sell sleigh-bells in this section of the country? Don't you know it never snows here?'—*Texas Siftings*, Oct. 20, 1888.

—SAND-BOX.—A rough box filled with sand used as a spittoon. —SAND-CHERRY (*Cerasus pumila*).—A native of the North and West. The fruit of this trailing shrub is, in spite of its prolificness, of little account.

—SAND-HILLERS. — The lowest class of whites in the Southern States. These people are mainly found in the PINE BARRENS (*q.v.*), and live an idle, shiftless, wretched existence.—See POOR WHITES. —The SANDLOTS of San Francisco are



associated with the name of Denis Kearney, a Communist, who, some years ago, had a considerable following. The headquarters of the faction were situated in some vacant land outside the city limits. His followers are colloquially known as SANDLOTTERS.—See KEARNEYITES.

—SAND-PLUM (*Prunus maritima*).

—A wild plum growing in sandy localities. Plum Island on the Massachusetts coast derives its name from the abundance of the variety upon it.—SAND-STORM.—

A storm to which the plains are subject, in which the wind, not necessarily particularly strong, has an inclination to the ground. A terrific wind-storm may sweep over and parallel to the surface without much disturbing the dust; but one of these impinging winds picks up everything—dust, sand, and pebbles to the size of a pea—drives them through the air, rendering it most painful, and even dangerous, to open the eyes, besides causing almost complete darkness. These storms are of frequent occurrence all over the plains, and are exceedingly disagreeable, though easily avoided by getting into a ravine.

**SANG** (*Panax quinquefolium*).—A corruption of "ginseng," one of the most highly-esteemed herbs in the Chinese pharmacopœia. Ginseng literally means "the first of herbs." The plant is abundant in Virginia and North Carolina.—To GO A SANGING.—To gather *sang*, and—SANG-HOE, an implement employed by gatherers of this herb.

**SANTA FÉ TEA**.—A substitute, in Mexico, for tea, being an infusion of the leaves of the *Alstonia theaformis*. Though the shrub itself resembles the tea plant of commerce, the decoction is "a very long way after" the genuine article in flavor.

**SAPOTE OR SAPODILLA**.—A name given to several fruits in the West Indies which vary in size, color, pulp, and taste.

**SAPPY**, also **SAPHEAD**.—An effeminate man.

**SAPSAGO**.—A variety of Swiss cheese called by the Germans *Schabzieger*.

**SAPSUCKER** (*Picus varius*, etc.).—A bird of the woodpecker tribe, called a *sapsucker* from a popular superstition that it feeds on the sap of trees.

**SAP-SUGAR**.—MAPLE SUGAR (*q.v.*).

**SARATOGA**.—A very commodious trunk used by ladies when travelling. Of late years, *saratogas* have been introduced into England. The name is derived from a celebrated American watering place.

By the time this harangue was ended, Miss Jessica had herself and SARATOGA safely landed on the verandah, while Mrs. Johnson had stepped forward to meet her, surrounded by half a dozen or more tow-headed children.—*The American*, June 27, 1888.

**SARCOPHAGUS**.—A leaden coffin. Even the presence of the Great Leveller fails to exercise a moderating influence upon the tendency of some classes of Americans to high falutin'. The most modest receptacle for the cast-off shell of humanity is called a casket, whilst the more pretentious would probably "haunt the scenes of former strife and toil" were their remains consigned to any humbler resting place than a *sarcophagus*. Amid such grandeur cynicism may well ask, Where, death, thy sting? Where, grave, thy victory? *O tempora! O mores!*

**SARDINES.**—(1) In America, as in England, *sardines* are not always what they profess to be. Menhaden, like the English pilchard, are largely used as substitutes. —(2) A jocular term for sailors.

**SASS TEA.**—Sassafras tea.

**SAUCE.**—(1) Vegetables when eaten with meat. This usage is an undoubted survival of Old English usage.—*See* LONG SAUCE. —(2) Stewed fruits.—*See* APPLE BUTTER. —SAUCE-MAN.—This derivative of *sauce* is American both by birth and usage, and is employed to designate a greengrocer or other dealer in market produce.

**SAVAGE AS A MEAT AXE.**—The meaning of this metaphor is unmistakable; it forms part of what Mark Twain calls the "vigorous vernacular," and signifies (1) ferociously savage; (2) exceedingly hungry.

**SAVAGEOUS.**—An intensive form of *savage* — alike factitious and uncouth.

**SAVE, TO.**—When a Western hunter or marksman *saves* his quarry he means that his shot has "told"; that the bullet has found its billet and is *saved*, *i.e.*, not wasted. The idiom originated in the great store sometimes set upon ammunition—life itself occasionally depending upon its possession and careful use. To *GET* is often used in the same sense.

**SAW, TO.**—In Maine, *to saw* is to scold, while out West, it signifies to play a joke; to hoax.—**SAWBUCK.**—A sawhorse; used in sawing wood for fuel. **WOODHORSE** is the Southern equivalent.—**SAW GUMMER.**—*See* GUMMER.—**SAW LOG.**—A log of

wood cut to suitable dimensions for sawing into planks.—**SAW-WHET** (*Ulula acadia*).—A small owl, so named from the resemblance of its cry to a rasping, grinding saw.

**SAWYER.**—In the Mississippi and other Western waters, an uprooted tree, wholly or partially immersed, floating with the current. These constitute a serious danger to navigation, and are often the cause of steamers and other craft being wrecked. Compare with **SNAG**.

**SAY** (in poker).—When it is the turn of any player to declare what he will do, whether he will *bet* or *pass* his hand, it is said to be his *say*.—*The American Hoyle*.

**SCAB.**—A workman who does not belong to a trades'-union or similar organization.

The young women in the Lehigh Valley are backing up the strikers, and at a dance Saturday night not a **SCAB** could find a partner to dance with.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, February 3, 1888.

Indications point to the men going on strike again in a day or two, the company having already broken its avowment not to victimize the men. This was done in a general discharge of engineers and others who refused to hoist or handle coal during the late effort to **SCAB** the collieries.—*Montreal Herald*, February 21, 1888.

A strike is in progress at Bernhard Newmark's cigar factory at Second Avenue and Seventy-third Street, but the work is still going on, with non-union workmen. Last evening, when these workmen were ready to go home, they found the striking cigar-makers out in force. The strikers yelled **SCAB**, and threw mud and small stones until upwards of a thousand people were assembled about the factory.—*New York Evening Post*, February 24, 1888.

**SCADS.**—A generic name for money in the West.

**SCALE, TO.**—*See* SEAL.—**SCALES.**—A common term for money; an abbreviation of **SHADSCALES**.

**SCALLAWAG.**—A loafer; vagabond; or rogue.

Sternly gazed the first new-comer on the unindulgent crowd,  
Then in tones which pierced the deepô he solilicussed aloud:—

I hev travelled o'er this cont'nent from Quebec to Bogotâw,  
But setch a set of SCALLAWAGS as these I never saw.

—Charles G. Leland's *Ballad of Charity*.

**SCALLYHOOT, To.**—To be off; to skedaddle. A Texas form. (Cf., *scat, scateran*; Welsh, *heot, hoot*.)

**SCALP, To.**—(1) Round this word cling many of the saddest and most terrible memories of the long conflict, now happily almost ended, between the red and white races on the American Continent. The Indian believing that no *scalped* person would partake of the pleasures of the HAPPY HUNTING GROUNDS (*q.v.*), has sought to reduce the number of possible foes in the future by *scalping* them here. *Scalping* consists of tearing off the skin and hair of the head. Idiomatically the term is used in the sense of defeating or annihilating an opponent, and is varied by "raising the hair."—See **HAIR**.

It is good for brethren to dwell together in harmony, but the way Editor Medill is **SCALPING** John Sherman is better—much better.—*Missouri Republican*, February 22, 1888.

- (2) To drive a hard bargain.—
- (3) To speculate in unused railway tickets. The mileage system (see **MILEAGE**) adopted on American railways, and the fact that return tickets are available till used, have led to the establishment of offices where these unused tickets are bought and sold. The suggestiveness of the name given to the operation is no doubt warranted at times, the **TICKET SCALPER** buying

at the lowest and selling at the dearest rates.

Pork was weak and a shade lower, and trading small, mainly in **SCALPING** on small charges.—*New York Evening Post*, February 24, 1888.

**SCARE.**—From the verb "to scare," *i.e.*, to frighten, the Americans have coined "scare," which, in its more familiar sense has become naturalized in England. In the West, however, it signifies a stampede of cattle or horses.—**TO SCARE UP.**—To find; look up; or collect.

Can't you **SCARE UP** some eggs or something? I'll take over a load of apples. I hate to do any business Sundays, but I'll ask Miss Rogers if she wants that butter, and if she does, I'll go over with it a-Monday.—*Portland Transcript*, 1888.

—**SCARESOME** or **SKEERSOME.**—Fear-producing; of a frightful character.

**SCART.**—An old form of "scared."

'My boy Shake vhas **SCART** avhay, my wife vhas seek abed, und I haf to lock oop my place or be kilt.'

'It's sad lines,' mused the sargeant.—*Carl Dunder*.

**SCAT.**—Be off! Begone! A variant of **GIT!** (*q.v.*), and an abbreviation of "scatter."

'I have something here which should be in every Southern home,' he said, edging into the business man's office and bowing obsequiously.

'**SCAT!** you book agent,' exclaimed the man addressed, and at the same time reaching for a paper-weight.—*Texas Siftings*, October 20, 1888.

**SCATTER-GUN.**—A "two-pipe scatter-gun," *i.e.*, a double-bore rifle.

**SCATTERTATIONIST.**—One who is swayed by every puff of wind; who by following side issues weakens his main chance. For-



merly political but now commonly colloquial.

**SCAVIOR** (Cant). — Sharp; cunning. Like many terms contained in the thief's vocabulary, this adjective is also employed as a noun; in which case it signifies "knowledge."

**SCHOONER**.—A tall glass, holding a pint, used in the consumption of lager beer.

**SCHUTE**.—See CHUTE.

**SCIENTIST**.—A man of science. In the commencement of the philological battle concerning the termination "ist," the thick of the fight was mainly waged round this word, it being one of the earliest introductions of the class. Compared with some recent forms (See FRUITIST) *scientist* is a highly respectable, working member of Society of Uncouth Words and Phrases.

**SCISSOR TAIL**.—The KING BIRD (*q.v.*).

**SCOLDENORE**.—In Maine, a water-fowl.

**SCOOP**.—This, used both as a noun and verb, is as nearly as possible equivalent to the English slang "rise," an advantage or a good thing. For example, death is said to get a *scoop* on a man.

'No man ever knowned Buck Fanshaw to go back on a friend. But it's all up, you know, it's all up. It ain't no use. They've scooped him.'

'Scooped him?'

'Yes; death has.'

—Mark Twain's *The Innocents at Home*, p. 20.

'The "Times" people rather got ahead of you on that Swinburne cable, didn't they?'

'Well, yes; it was a sort of a scoop. But we're ready for 'em! None of your poetry business, neither. Seen that play, The Rivals, that Toe Jefferson's doing? Good

stuff, eh? Well, the next play that man brings out, we're going to have it here on six wires, same day it's done in London. I'm writing him now!'—*Puck*.

**SCOOT, TO, SKOOT OR SKUTE**.—To move with alacrity; to run. A New England expression used as noun, verb, and adjective.

'I went right into the kitchen and opened the door, and what d'ye think? There sot that plumber, an' my wife on his lap, an' was huggin' her.'

'Well, what did you do?'

'Do!' he shouted. 'What could I do? Didn't I have my hands full of chops and tomatoes. Besides the fellow got up and scooted!'—*New York Mercury*, July 21, 1888.

**SCORPION**.—In the South, a wood lizard; generally applied to *Agama undulata*.

**SCOW**.—A flat-bottomed boat of varying capacity in point of speed, some being comparatively quick sailers, whilst others, used as lighters, make no pretensions in that respect. MUD scows are employed for dredging purposes.

The Charles Brown, in from Cairo Tuesday night, had two barges and a scow loaded with Pittsburg coal. She returned during the night with an empty barge.—*Missouri Republican*, May 10, 1888.

**SCRANNY**.—Thin; bony. A woman's word. Provincial in England. Compare with SCRAWNY.

**SCRAPE**.—A technical term for the inferior turpentine gathered from the surface of the pine. A superior product is obtained by incisions in the bark.—To SCRAPE COTTON.—To hoe the growing plants.

**SCRATCHES**.—The "grease" of English veterinary surgeons.

**SCRATCH GRAVEL**!—Begone! This expression may be compared with

"to pad the hoof," and similar phrases.

**SCRATCHING**.—An electioneering dodge. Narrow slips of paper gummed on the back, and bearing printed names of candidates, are distributed by local political leaders prior to or during an election, so that voters may readily re-arrange ballots to suit their own individual preferences. Pastors, in short, reduce *scratching* to a system.

**SCRAWL**.—Webster gives this as a New England term for a ragged, broken branch of a tree, or other brushwood.

**SCRAWNY**.—Thin; bony. Sometimes **SCRANNY**.

No one could go from this to any European country, or return thence without being struck by this national peculiarity; and, if the men were lank and fallow, the women were absolutely **SCRAWNY** during youth, although sometimes fat at middle age. Indeed, so universal was the **SCRAWNNINESS** that, as is always the case with widespread peculiarities, it came to be the fashion.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, 1888.

**SCREAMER**.—A fine strapping man or woman. A term of Western origin and equivalent to **HORSE** (*q.v.*).

**SCREW-BEAN** (*Strombocarpus pubescens*).—This tree, common in Texas and the West, belongs to the locust family. So called because of its twisted pods.

**SCREWSMAN** (Cant).—A manufacturer of duplicate keys for purposes of robbery.

**SCRINGE, To**.—To flinch. Texas.

**SCROD**.—See **ESCROD**.

**SCROOF, To** (Cant).—To live with a friend at the latter's expense. It is considered "a point of honor among thieves" only to "sponge" in this manner when first released from durance vile, *i.e.*, until they can support themselves.

**SCROUGER**.—A strapping fellow, or fine girl.—See **SCREAMER**.

**SCRUB OAK**.—Dwarf varieties are so named.—See **OAK**.

**SCUD-GRASS**.—A Florida grass, growing to a height of nearly three feet. Otherwise **SCOTS' GRASS**.

**SCUFF**.—In New England a light shoe, or slipper.

**SCULDUGGERY**.—An opprobrious political term, signifying proficiency in the art of "wire-pulling." A Western term.

**SCULPTORESS**.—See remarks on **BROKERESS**.

**SCUP**.—The Rhode Island name for a fish, which in New York and New England is known as the **POGGY**.—To **SCUP**.—A New York boy's term, little heard now, signifying to swing. From the Dutch *schoppen*.

**SEA**.—**SEA-DEVIL**.—See under **DEVIL**.—**SEA-ISLAND COTTON**.—A once celebrated variety of cotton. Cf. **UPLAND COTTON**.—**SEA-PIKE**.—The **BILL-FISH** (*q.v.*).—**SEA-ROBIN**.—The **FLYING-FISH** (*q.v.*).—**SEA-SIDE GRAPE**.—A West Indian name for the *Coccoloba uvifera*.

**SEAL, To**.—**SEALING**.—The ceremony of spiritual marriage amongst

polygamous Mormons, is known as *sealing* or SCALING. Each succeeding wife is supposed to enjoy the same rights, "privileges," and relations to the man who has *sealed* her to himself as the first lawfully married wife, but the general result, naturally enough, is to the advantage of the younger and prettier women; those who are *passee* go to the wall.—SEALER.—In New England an official appointed to test and stamp weights and measures; also leather.

**SEARCHER.**—An instrument used in testing butter New England.

**SEASON.**—Colloquially employed in the South for weather; a spell of rain, *i.e.*, a *season* suitable for planting. A usage probably attributable to the fact of rain in its proper season being indispensable to semi-tropical agricultural operations.

**SEAWAN OR SEWANT.**—A variety of specie formerly in use amongst the Indians of North America. Other varieties are COHOG, WAMPUM, etc.

**SECESH, SECESHER SECESSIONIST, SECESSIONER.**—Various forms used to indicate those who, in the South, favored SECESSION from the Union. It is now a matter of history that the counsels of this party were carried to their legitimate conclusion, and resulted in one of the direst civil conflicts the world has ever known.—To SECESH, to revolt; to rebel.—SECESHDOM, SECESSIA, SECESSIONDOM.—All familiar appellations for the Confederate States.—See CONFEDERATE.

**SECOND-CLASS MATTER.**—One of the distinctions drawn by the U.S.

post-office between postal matter of differing grades. Newspapers, amongst other literary matter, are so classed.

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**SECOND-DAY WEDDING.**—A reception given by newly-married couples on their return from the honeymoon.

**SECTION.**—This is described by the scholarly R. G. White, in *Words and their Uses*, as "a horrible Americanism for 'neighborhood,' 'vicinity,' 'quarter,' 'region,' as, for example, 'our section,' 'this section of country.' " It is Western, of course, but has crept Eastwards against the tide. It is the result of the division of the unoccupied lands in the West, for purposes of sale, into *sections* (640 acres), based upon parallels of latitude and longitude. Emigration parties would buy and settle upon a quarter *section* of land, and they continued talking about their *section* even after they had homes, and neighborhoods, towns, villages, and counties—a fashion which, even with them, should have had its day, and in which they should not be imitated.

I see no reason why your SECTION of the country will not enjoy a healthy boom in the next ten years, and properly organized efforts



to accomplish this would help the matter on greatly. I hope to be able to visit your SECTION again another fall or winter, if not before, and to extend our business interests in that locality. — *New Orleans Times Democrat*, 1888.

The funeral of Albert Fairchild will long be remembered in all the SECTION round. More than one State official attended, and there was a vast concourse. — *Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

—SECTIONAL. — Pertaining to a section or portion of the country; and frequently employed as the antithesis of national.

'Sir,' said Mr. Rebelflag, addressing the genial proprietor at the fifty-cent *table-d'hôte*, 'we have been too kind to the South; that is the difficulty. I have always been opposed to extending the right hand of fellowship to our Southern brother until all this SECTIONAL feeling should have died out.' — *Puck*, 1888.

—SECTIONALISM. — The acts, practices, means, and results of those who favor the claims of one portion of the country in preference to those of the nation at large. — To SECTIONIZE. — To survey land and map it out into sections. A section comprises 640 acres, which again is divided into quarter sections of 160 acres. — See HOMESTEAD ACT.

SEEING A BET (in poker). — The same as MAKING GOOD. — *The American Hoyle*.

SEEM. — It is habitual with the New Englander to put this verb to strange uses, as "I can't *seem* to be suited," "I couldn't *seem* to know him." — *Biglow Introduction*.

SEEP, To. — Used in New England to signify the process of straining. Coffee is said to be *seeped* when run through muslin to clear it. — SEEPY. — Undrained; e.g., "wet" land is *seepy*.

SEIGNEURS. — A French-Canadian name for landowners in the pro-

vince of Quebec. — SEIGNIORIES. — The townships in the province of Quebec. The tenure is feudal in character.

SELECTMAN. — In New England a magistrate, whose position, power, and duties closely resemble those of English J.P.'s. The term is an abbreviation of SELECT TOWNSMEN.

SEMI-OCCASIONALLY. — A pleonasm for occasionally; once in a while.

SENATE. — According to Webster, the *Senate* in the United States denotes the higher branch or house of a legislature. Such is the *Senate* of the United States, or upper house of the Congress; and, in most of the States, the higher and least numerous branch of the legislature is called the *Senate*. In the United States, the *Senate* is an elective body. — SENATOR. — A member of a State, or United States Senate.

SEND OFF. — A journalistic Americanism for a notice; an item of news. Sometimes SEND-OFF NOTICE.

'Are you the man who compiled a list of dead beats?' 'Yes, sir; but if I made any mistakes—' 'You run in my name as being able to pay, but wouldn't do it.' 'Yes, sir, but—' 'Here's 25 dols. for you. That SEND-OFF got me a job as treasurer of a dramatic company.' — *Nebraska State Journal*, 1888.

SENSATIONISM. SENSATIONIST. SENSATIONIOUS. — All unorthodox forms, the meanings of which are sufficiently obvious to need no explanation.

SENSE, To. — A verb, common in New England, meaning to comprehend; to grasp intuitively. A most valuable form which, failing a better one, lexicographers would do well to adopt.

**SENTENTIOUS.**—A vulgar corruption of "sententious."

Senator Evarts has at command a SENTENTIOUS humor that is rarely hinted at in such of his oblong periods as are most familiar to the public. A correspondent says that he remarked of Rhode Island that it was settled by the Dutch; the Yankees settled the Dutch; and of certain Christians who landed in New England. They praised God and fell on their knees—then they fell upon the aborigines.—*Detroit Free Press*, November 3, 1888.

**SERAPE.**—A Mexican blanket worn by men.

If . . . the day is mild, as it is most likely to be . . . far South . . . he sits out on his piazza, with a light SERAPE of striped woollen thrown over his shoulders.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

**SERVE UP, TO.**—To expose to ridicule. Compare with English slang "to dish."

**SET BACK.**—A reverse; a discomfiture.

A few years ago Matamoras was so horribly afflicted with vomito that hundreds of her citizens died in a week, and commerce received a SET BACK from which it has not yet recovered.—*Troy Daily Times*, February 4, 1888.

The old saying that there is luck in finding a horseshoe received a SET BACK this morning, when one of our merchants who has a mania for this sort of work got out of his wagon to pick one up, but just as he was getting in again cramped his buggy too much and broke a wheel.—*Detroit Free Press*, September 15, 1888.

**SETTING-POLE.**—A punting pole, the end of which is shod with iron.

**SETTING ROOM.**—An old time name for the common living room of a New England household.

When they reached the porch, she led the way through the open front door to the SETTING ROOM of the house, as the living-room was always called in that day. The fire-place looked like an extinct crater; curtains of narrow green slats hung at the

windows, and the floor was covered by a new rag-carpet.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1888.

**SETTLEMENT.**—Land belonging to a church living; a glebe.

**SET UP, TO BE.**—To be conceited; to give oneself airs.

**SEVENING.**—A telegraphic contraction for "this evening." SMORNING is likewise used for "this morning."

**SEVEN UP.**—Commonly called ALL FOURS. A Western term.

The king got out an old *deck of cards* after breakfast, and him and the duke played SEVEN UP a while, five cents a game. Then they got tired of it, and allowed they would lay out a campaign, as they called it.—*Mark Twain's Huckleberry Finn*, p. 93.

**SEVERALS.**—A vulgarism in Pennsylvania for "several."

**SEWAN.**—See SEAWAN.

**SEWING BEE.**—A working party for sewing purposes. The American people carry out in a very practical manner the old adage, "Union is strength."—See BEE.

**SHACK.**—(1) A log cabin. The average shack comprises but one room, and is usually roofed with earth supported by poles.

Nowhere in the United States will be found a people, who, as a class, are more deeply interested than Dakotans in the moral and social welfare of the communities in which they live. In their home, and even in the primitive SHACKS, and sod houses, the first dwelling places of the settler, are found works of art, libraries of instructive books, instruments of music, and other evidences of taste and culture.—*The Argus (Fargo, Da.)*, 1888.

These topics having been exhausted, we discussed the rumor that the vigilantes had given notice to quit to two men who had just built a SHACK at the head of the Little Dry, and whose horses included a suspiciously large number of different brands, most of

them blurred.—*Century Magazine*, October, 1883.

—(2) A loafer; beggar; or vagabond. Colloquial in New England, but slang in England.—SHACKLY.—An English provincialism for rickety; shaky; which is quite colloquial across the Atlantic.—SHACKNASTY, as nasty or as disagreeable as a *shack*, *i.e.*, vagabond or beggar.

We refuse to chip in for a church, but will contribute ten dollars to help get Lampas Jake, the revivalist, down here. We want him to come down here, and tell the people that they are the meanest, wickedest, low-down, SHACK-NASTY lot of heathens in America, and that not one of them stands any more show of getting to Heaven than a jack-rabbit does of outrunning chain lightning. If Jake can knock any of the dirt off, and get down to the cuticle, and scare thunder out of enough citizens to hold a prayer-meeting, we'll go in for a church building with a whoop.—*Detroit Free Press*, October, 1883.

**SHAD-BELLY COAT.**—A name, drawn from the contour of the shad, for a coat of the pattern now known as a morning coat. The old style was similar in character to that of the dress coat. From the fact that Quakers preferred the *shad-belly coat* at a time when the other style was the popular one, they received the nickname of SHADBELLIES.

**SHADOWED, TO BE.**—To be subject to police supervision or espionage; to be followed by detectives; to be watched.

A man calling himself Dr. Adams, who has been giving private music lessons here for the past two months, has been SHADOWED by Boston detectives, who say that his real name is Brooks, and that he is now living with his first wife, having deserted his second wife and their children in Boston.—*Boston Daily Globe*, Feb. 6, 1883.

**SHAG-BARK** (*Carya alba*).—A variety of hickory, so-called from the roughness of its bark. The market value of its timber and nut-fruit

is superior to other kinds. Also called SHELL BARK.

**SHAKE!**—A term indicative of agreement. It is sometimes customary to ratify a bet by shaking hands.

SHAKE on that! and in the meantime, as you cannot have absolute free trade, be content with as large a measure of it as you can get.—*London (Ont.) Adventures*, Feb., 1883.

—FAIR SHAKE, *i.e.*, a good or fair bargain; good measure—from the shaking down, to ensure full weight or measure.—MORE THAN YOU CAN SHAKE A STICK AT.—More than you can count; an indefinite number or quantity.—SHAKE-DOWN.—What is more generally known as a BREAKDOWN; a riotous boisterous dance. A Western term.—TO SHAKE THE ELBOW.—To gamble with dice.—TO SHAKE ONE.—To neglect; to turn one's back upon. Mining slang.

'And you can say, pard, that he never SHOOK his mother.'

'Never SHOOK his mother?'

'That's it; any of the boys will tell you so.' . . . 'In my opinion the man that would offer personal violence to his own mother, ought to—'

'Cheese it, pard; you've bauked your ball clean outside the string. What I was a drivin' at, was, that he never throwed off on his mother; don't you see?'

He give her a house to live in, and town lots, and plenty of money; and he looked after her and took care of her all the time; and when she was down with the small pox, I'm d—d if he didn't set up nights and nuss her himself!—*Mark Twain's The Innocents at Home*.

—SHAKING PRAIRIE.—The *shaking prairie*, trembling prairie, or *prairie tremblante*, is low, level, treeless delta land, having a top soil of vegetable mould overlying immense beds of quicksand.

As the Acadian glanced abroad westward, in the open sky far out over the vast marshy breadths of the SHAKING PRAIRIE, two still clouds, whose under surfaces were yet dusky and pink, sparkled on their seaward edges like a frosted fleece.—*The Century*, 1887.



—SHAKES.—(1) Fever and ague; sometimes called SHAKING AGUE. (2) An earthquake. (3) Long undressed shingles (roofing tiles) cut from the upper branches of a tree. A Californian backwood's term.

**SHAKERS.**—An estimable sect, very different to the body of people known by the same name in England; an offshoot of the Quakers, having seceded from that persuasion in 1770. The distinctive name is derived from the importance they attach to the sacred or shaking dance, which they attribute to spiritual influence. One of their distinctive religious tenets is, that the "way of salvation" was republished to mankind through Mother Ann Lee, the founder of their sect. They practice celibacy, and live in communities. They are good citizens, and apart from their peculiar doctrines, are much esteemed.

The SHAKERS have a clean appreciation of the necessity and dignity of labor. Every one of them has some useful work to do, according to age, sex and strength. Perhaps no class of people has done more for the country than they, when it is remembered how few they are in number. They originated the drying of sweet corn for food more than fifty years ago, and suggested the modern improved kilns for that purpose. They were the first in this country to institute the raising, papering, and vending of garden seeds in the present styles. They originated in this country the botanic practice of medicine, and first dried and prepared medicinal herbs and roots for market. They were the first to make brooms of broom brush, and, in fact, originated the entire broom business. The first buzz saw was manufactured by the SHAKERS at Harvard, Mass., and used both there and at New Lebanon. The SHAKERS first invented and used the planing and jointing machines for dressing flooring and ceiling lumber. They were the inventors and manufacturers of cut nails. The first machine for cutting and bending card teeth and punching the leather for setting was invented and used at Mount Lebanon, and for years the SHAKERS had a practical monopoly of all the

above-named trades and forms of business. —*New York World*, 1888.

—SHAKER YARBS.—Well known medicines — prepared by the Shakers from herbs.

**SHAM LEGGERS** (Cant). — Men who work the confidence trick by pretending to sell smuggled goods.

**SHAMOCRAT.**—One who pretends to be possessed of wealth, influence, rank, or indeed any quality, which is only conspicuous by its absence.

**SHANGHAI.**—An old term for a tall, lanky dude; swell; or masher. *Shanghai* fowls were a long-legged variety introduced from China. —To SHANGHAI.—To drug a sailor, and convey him on board a vessel about to sail, thus causing him to proceed on a voyage *nolens volens*. The practice is said to have originated and been extensively carried out at *Shanghai*.

**SHANK.**—The remainder; the rest. A Virginia expression.

**SHANTY.**—A hut or temporary erection. The word is now common in England, but originated in Canada; from the French *chantier*. —To SHANTY.—To live in a *shanty*. —SHANTYING GROUND.—A locality where shanties are erected. —SHANTY BOAT.—A temporary hut or dwelling on a boat, erected, *e.g.*, on the immense rafts of logs frequently met with on all American waterways.

He was a member of the army of nomads, who pepper the Mississippi and its tributaries with their floating homes, locally known as SHANTY BOATS. July and August invariably find them above Cairo, and as the weather moderates they follow the summer south, spending the winter and spring in the bayous or on one of the southern lakes which teem with every species of wild fowl, game,

and vegetation, taking their ease in their castle. As a rule, they toil not, neither do they spin, and it is an undisputed fact that Solomon was never arrayed like one of them.—*Detroit Free Press*, November 3, 1888.

**SHAP.**—A shortened form of CHAPPARAL (*q.v.*). Also CHAPS. Explained by quotation.

The costume [a cowboy's] is an imitation of the Mexican, and so has a dash of Spanish about it. A pair of SHAPS or leather overalls, with tags and fringes down the seams, a pair of big cruel-looking but really very harmless Mexican spurs, a soft felt sombrero hat, and a buckskin shirt.—*A. Staveley Hill's From Home to Home*.

**SHAPE.**—To RUN ONE'S SHAPE.—To swindle on the strength of one's personal appearance and plausible address.—**SHAPING UP.**—The process of harmonising men, and things, which, if allowed to fall of themselves into place, would be discordant or antagonistic.

The process of SHAPING UP the party of people who are to be brought into social contact at the President's table, is always a delicate and somewhat difficult one.—*Superior Inter-Ocean*, 1888.

**SHARK.**—In the West a lean, hungry hog; from the voracity with which it feeds.—To SHARK.—To fish for this sea-monster; and idiomatically, in allusion to its voracious savageness, to prey upon others.

**SHARP.**—FOUR O'CLOCK SHARP, *i.e.*, precisely at four o'clock; punctually. A colloquialism which is now common in England.—**SHARPENIN' ROCK.**—A grind-stone bears this name in the Southwest.—*See* ROCK.—**SHARPSET.**—Generally applied to the appetite, and signifying very hungry.

So I was led up to where the pope was sitting in the dining-room waiting for the meal to be served, for he was SHARPSET after his long fast, and we talked about everything that came up. Finally he said:

'Dan, take your foot in your hand and come down in the cellar with me, and we will have a drop of something to give you an appetite.'—*Missouri Republican*, January 25, 1888.

—**SHARPSHIN.**—Applied to value or quantity, *e.g.*, not a *sharpshin*; this term is equivalent to the minimum; a value or measure reduced almost to vanishing point.—**SHARP STICK.**—To PURSUE WITH A SHARP STICK is to be keen for revenge; or, idiomatically, never to swerve in the execution of one's purpose.

**SHAVE, To.**—To discount bills, etc., at usurious rates; and, metaphorically, to fleece.

In floating the notes they were SHAVED heavily by the parties who put them in bank, and did not bring Richards two-thirds of their value. The money was spent in a very liberal and extravagant manner.—*Globe Democrat*, April 2, 1888.

It is stated that the new vestibule cars run so smoothly that a man can be SHAVED on them. So he can on the ordinary palace cars; the porter has always done that for all the passengers.—*Boston Post*, 1888.

—**SHAVER.**—An usurious money-lender or discounter. Penal enactments have been passed against *shaving*, but these gentry frequently manage to evade them.—**SHAVING SHOP.**—A money-lender's establishment. All these terms are probably of nautical origin.

**SHAY.**—A popular corruption of "chaise," a small two-wheeled vehicle.—Hence ONE HORSE CHAISE, applied to anything small and insignificant.—*See* ONE HORSE.

**SHEBANG.**—A word used very much like "diggings" in English slang, and applied alike to one's residence; a place of public meeting; an office for business; or indeed any place where one is permanently, or even temporarily located. The term origi-

nated during the Civil War, and is probably a corruption of the French CABBANE, the name given to a hut, used by Louisianian troops.

Schoolhouse in Georgia. Slim boy (addressing teacher) — 'Whut time does yo' blame SHEBANG shet down?'

Teacher — 'What do you mean by thus addressing me? Sit down there until you have learned better manners.'

[Boy sits down, but soon becomes restless.]

Teacher — 'Stop scouring around on that seat. What do you mean?'

— *American Humorist*, Oct. 27, 1888.

**SHECOORNERY.** — A fanciful corruption of "chicanery."

**SHE-CORN.** — A variety of maize considered the most prolific for planting. The name is obviously allusive.

**SHEDDER-CRAB.** — A crab, when SHEDDING its shel is so named. Also SOFT-CRAB

**SHEEP'S HEAD** (*Sparus ovis*). — A highly-esteemed salt-water fish, its distinctive name being derived from the resemblance of its head to that of a sheep. — **SHEEP LAUREL.** — See CALF-KILL, with which it is identical. — **SHEEP-SKIN.** — A term applied alike to a person who has received a college education, and the diploma he has gained.

In Memorial Hall, last night, the St. Louis College of Physicians and Surgeons held its ninth annual commencement exercises. Thirty-seven students were presented with their diplomas or SHEEP-SKINS, as they are known in college parlance, and they are now licensed to go out into the world, and prescribe pills and saw off limbs at their own sweet will, metaphorically speaking. — *Missouri Republican*, March 4, 1888.

**SHEER.** — Thin; clear; diaphanous; e.g., sheer muslin.

**SHEKELS.** — A slang term for money.

The White Mountain landlord is in a lively state of happiness. The SHEKELS have begun to roll in, and a big surplus revenue is assured. — *New York Herald*, July 22, 1888.

**SHELL-BARK HICKORY.** — See SHAG-BARK.

**SHENANIGAN.** — A curious factitious word for bounce; chaff; nonsense; generally used to intimate that trickery and unfair dealing are associated with the practices so designated.

**SHERRYVALLIES.** — Overalls, formerly worn over trousers, to protect them from mud and dust when travelling. The word is probably a corruption of "chevalier."

**SHIEW.** — The old preterite of "to show," still frequently heard all over the Union, but popularly supposed to be a distinguishing mark of a Bostonian. Lowell quotes ancient usage for this word.

**SHIFT** (Cant). — When a boxer purposely falls to escape a knock-down blow, he is said to make a *shift*.

**SHILLAGALEE.** — A loafer; what a Western man calls a MEAN CROWD. A New York term.

**SHILLING.** — This term is applied, especially in court districts, to a coin of the value of twelve and a half cents; eight *shillings* go to the dollar.

**SHIN, TO.** — Primarily to walk quickly; to gad about. In mercantile phraseology, however, it is applied specially to the action of a man who, finding himself short of money to meet his engagements, goes round to his friends to borrow what he requires. This meaning



of the word is not now unfamiliar in English circles, but in America it is employed when speaking of any eager search for assistance. To SHIN ROUND, TO SHIN UP, and SHINNYING, all express more or less brisk modes of motion, around the town; up a tree; here, there, and everywhere.

I SHINNED UP that tree so quick that I made the bark fly. Quick as I was, however, I wasn't a moment too lively, for the bear was underneath the tree, looking up with that longing expression peculiar to a grizzly when he has treed anything, and particularly a man.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, Feb. 6, 1888.

That was the last time I ever sauntered over to water the mules without my Winchester; yes, and revolver too, for a man is liable to drop his rifle if he has to SHINNY up a tree on the double quick, in which case a revolver is a mighty comforting thing to have on hand.—*American Humorist*, May 19, 1888.

Thar were Suse Livingoose. Suse's left eye had a way o' shyin' 'round to wind'ard, an' she were a leetle sot in her ways; but one year I took to SHINNIN' with her to all the doin's th' was. Bimeby the other gals fell to pinin', an' I felt sorry for 'em.—*American Humorist*, 1888.

**SHIN-DIG.**—A Western term for a ball or dance. Bartlett thinks the word is only another form of shindy; Western balls, presumably, were apt to end in a general *melée*.

Young Englishmen who have been well raised have a knack of appearing to be at home almost anywhere. They accommodate themselves to circumstances, and although dressed for a royal ball-room, our heroes were not the least embarrassed at a SHIN-DIG in a Minnesota barn. They were the very pink of politeness, and saluted the rustic maids in as courtly a manner as they would have done ladies of high degree.—*Texas Siftings*, June 30, 1888.

**SHINDY.**—Besides the English meaning of a row or disturbance, *shindy* answers to (1) a ball game generally called BANDY; and (2) a liking or fancy, people taking a great *shindy* to others.

**SHINE, TO.**—(1) A method of hunting in the South and West explained under FIRE-HUNT (*q.v.*).—(2) To distinguish oneself; this usage is now thoroughly colloquial in England.—RAIN OR SHINE.—Entertainments are announced to take place *rain or shine, i.e.*, whether it rains or the sun shines. Buffalo Bill's announcements (1888) will at once occur to mind.

'T ain't like Tom to lie about anything though. He generally faces it out, RAIN, HAIL, OR SHINE. I wish to goodness he could prove that he didn't kill George.—*Century Magazine*, 1887.

—To CUT A SHINE, OR TO CUT SHINES, is to make a show or display.—To TAKE A SHINE TO.—To take a liking to, or have a fancy for, a person or thing.

**SHINER.**—A name given to several fish of glittering appearance. The dace, however, is usually understood by the term.

**SHINGLE.**—This name for the small wooden tile used for roofing purposes has furnished many popular idioms. Of any close imitation of the real thing it is proverbially said to be a wooden *shingle* painted so like marble as to sink in water.—To SHINGLE.—To whip; to chastise. The derivation may be sought in the placing in juxtaposition of a *shingle* and a certain portion of a child's anatomy.—To HANG OUT ONE'S SHINGLE.—To start in business; to commence operations; to put up a sign—sign-boards and door-plates on a shop or office being facetiously known as *shingles*. In rough and outlying parts of the country, especially where lumbering operations are carried on, *shingles* have, doubtless, often been employed for this purpose. Sometimes varied by to SWING ONE'S SHINGLE.

A Toronto doctor opened an office in Chicago, and because he stuck out a SHINGLE bearing the legend Sirjickal institot, he has been proclaimed as a swindler!—*Boston Transcript*, February, 1888.

—TO SHINGLE ONE'S HEAD.—To crop the hair close in imitation of a shingle-roof.

Young ladies of New Haven cut a fellow who has had his hair SHINGLED. They prefer Yale locks.—*Texas Siftings*, 1888.

—To HAVE A SHINGLE SHORT.—To be cranky; silly; or, in English slang, "to have a tile loose."

—SHINGLE OAK (*Quercus unbricaria*).—A species found in the Middle States of from forty to fifty feet high, and deriving its name from the special use to which its timber is put.—SHINGLE-WEAVER.

—One who prepares and dresses shingles.

**SHINNER.**—In commercial circles one who runs hither and thither to borrow money in an emergency.

**SHINNY, SHINY.**—A man is *shinny* when intoxicated.

**SHINPLASTER.**—Formerly a slang term for all paper money, but notes of less value than a dollar are now generally understood by the word. *Shinplaster* is said to be an allusion to the utter worthlessness of the continental currency after the war of the Revolution.

Hope's brightest visions absquatulate with their golden promises before the least cloud of disappointment, and leave not a SHINPLASTER behind.—*Dow's Sermons*, vol. i., p. 309.

**SHIRT.**—To WAVE THE BLOODY SHIRT.—See BLOODY SHIRT.—BILED SHIRT.—See the same.—To MAKE A STRAIGHT SHIRT TAIL.—A suggestively expressive metaphor for motion of the utmost rapidity. Joseph made a straight

shirt tail when he left his robe behind him under well-known circumstances.

Now cut dirt! screamed I; and, Jehu General Jackson! if he didn't MAKE A STRAIGHT SHIRT TAIL for the door, may I never make another pass.—*Field's Western Tales*.

**SHOE.**—SHOEMAKE.—A corruption of "sumac" (see KINNIKINNICK).

—SHOEMAN.—A shoemaker.—

To WALK UPON ONE'S SHOESTRINGS.—An idiom indicative of poverty and destitution; a variant of our own "down at heels."

Tombstone, Ariz., was a very bad town half-a-dozen years ago, and it is not much of a paradise on earth just yet. I was around there prospecting in the neighborhood early in 1880, and to confess the truth I was hard up. I was literally WALKING ON MY SHOESTRINGS.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, February 16, 1888.

**SHOO! FLY! DON'T BOTHER ME!**—

An exclamation of impatience; *shoo* and *fly* are both common ejaculations in country districts when driving wandering fowls or cattle from gardens, etc., to legitimate pastures. Elwyn derived the first word from the German *scheuchen*. This, however, is a mistake, *shoo* being probably the natural sound that would find utterance under the circumstances. *Fly* is not the insect as some have supposed, but simply a pleonastic addition—*sh-sh-fly*, *i.e.*, fly away! be off! The full phrase is now familiarly colloquial.

**SHOOT, SHUTE.**—(1) Variants of CHUTE (*q.v.*).—(2) Rifle practice at fixed targets, or a pigeon shooting match, are respectively distinguished as a pigeon *shoot* or target *shoot*.

A GALA DAY AT TUXEDO.—A ladies' boat race, a pigeon SHOOT, and a dance.—*New York Herald*, November 4, 1888.

—To SHOOT ONE OR TO TAKE A SHOT TO ONE, is to take a liking or a fancy to a person. Cf. SHINE and SHINDY.—To SHOOT THE RAPIDS.—See CANOE.—SHOOT THAT COAT! SHOOT THAT HAT!—Examples of slang street expressions implying inferiority of quality; offensive and contemptuous they have happily fallen into comparative disuse.—SHOOTER or SHOOTING-IRON.—Western terms for a revolver and rifle.—SHOOTIST.—A marksman.—See FRUITIST.

**SHOPPED.**—The inmates of a sleeping car at Pittsburg, were turned out by the porter for the reason that it had to be *shopped*, i.e., sent to the repair shop.

**SHORT.**—**SHORTAGE.**—A deficit.

The county commissioners, in checking up the county funds, found a **SHORTAGE** of 5,700 dols. Dab Childs, treasurer, has held the office for three years.—*Missouri Republican*, March 27, 1888.

—**SHORTBOYS.**—A notorious band of New York roughs.—See **DEAD-RABBITS** under **DEAD.**—**SHORT-HAIRS.**—See **SWALLOW-TAILS.**—**SHORT-METRE.**—(1) To do a thing in *short metre* is to do it quickly, or without delay; as may be surmised, this is a New England idiom derived from the psalm-singing propensities fostered in its Puritan communities.—(2) Another metaphor drawn from the same source is the use of *short metre* to signify a brief spell of study, work, etc.

This goin' where glory waits ye, ain't one agreeable feature,  
And if it warn't for wakin' snakes, I'd be home again **SHORT METRE.**

—*J. R. Lowell's Biglow Papers.*

—**SHORT SAUCE.**—See **LONG SAUCE.**—**SHORTS.**—Breeches; a variation of small-clothes.

**SHOT.**—**SHOT BUSH** (*Aralia spinosa*).—A prickly tree shrub, also known as the **TEAR-COAT.** Southern.—**SHOT-GUN.**—A smooth bore gun as distinguished from a rifle.

The unfortunate man had killed himself with the **SHOT-GUN**, the muzzle of which he placed against his left eye, discharging it by placing his foot on the trigger. Death must have been instantaneous, as the whole top of the head was blown off.—*St. Louis Daily Globe Democrat*, 1888.

—**SHOT IN THE NECK.**—Drunk.

**SHOULDER-HITTER.**—A bully; a ruffian. Bartlett says a recent (1877) addition to blackguard nomenclature, but Lowell points out that *shoulder-striker* is a very old term.

**SHOUTIN' MEMBER.**—When applied to a member of a religious body, one who takes an active part in church exercises. **SHOUTING METHODIST** (the term is sometimes self-given) is frequently heard.

It was partly due to her long residence, and partly to assumption, and largely to the fact that she owned a mule, that Sister Mary was an authority on the place. She was a **SHOUTIN' MEMBER** of the church, as her name indicates, and not only led the hymns, but the cotton pickers, and, honest in her own efforts, allowed no shirkers in either occupation.—*Times Democrat*, Feb. 5, 1888.

**SHOVE.**—(1) The stalk of hemp.—(2) On the St. Lawrence the ice through expansion piles up. This is locally called a *shove*.

**SHOVELLER** (*Anas clypeata*).—A duck found in the Rocky Mountains and Texas.

**SHOW.**—To GIVE ONE A SHOW is to give one a chance.—**GREAT MORAL SHOW.**—*Alias* the greatest show upon earth, *alias* Mr. Barnum.—See **BARNUMESE.**

When Parson Jim came to the Gulch and announced himself as a preacher, the miners



asked no questions. They did not take much stock in preaching, but they were disposed to GIVE THE NEW-COMER A SHOW; and when Parson Jim proved to their satisfaction that he was made of the right stuff, they not only tolerated him, but made him heartily welcome.—*Portland Transcript*, March 14, 1888.

**SHUCK.**—The outer shell, pod, rind, or husk of various food stuffs, such as Indian corn, etc. The word is thoroughly well known in England; e.g., pea-shucks, although shell is more frequently used.—**TO SHUCK.**—To separate corn from the husk or shuck which envelopes it.—**SHUCK-BOTTOM.**—The outer shell or shuck of the maize ear is frequently used for the seats of chairs, which are then called *shuck-bottom* chairs.—**SHUCKING** OR **CORN-SHUCKING.**—See **HUSKING.**—**SHUCKS! NOT WORTH SHUCKS! DON'T AMOUNT TO SHUCKS!**—Both expressions denote worthlessness.

There is no law which makes sexual intercourse illegal or illicit, and until such a law is passed it is not the province of a jury to twist evidence into a moral charge. Your province is to try this case upon the charge in the indictment. Mere statement of counsel goes for nothing; it DOESN'T AMOUNT TO SHUCKS.—*American Paper*.

Now, Mr. Arch, I've got you, and if you don't keep your eye skinned, I'll lick you till your hide won't hold SHUCKS.—*Mike Hooter, by a Missourian*.

—An even greater depth of worthlessness is represented by *shuckless*, i.e., without even a shuck.

'Be not afraid, stranger, I am here to do the Lord's work. Two months ago I was the most SHUCKLESS critter in all Tennessee, and wicked to boot.—*Detroit Free Press*, Aug. 1888.

**SHUT-EYE FLAVOR.**—Explained by quotation.

I may be allowed to say that I was not backward to recognize in them a certain wild, puckery, acidulous (sometimes even verging toward that point which, in our rustic phrase, is termed SHUT-EYE) FLAVOR; not wholly unpleasing, nor unwholesome to

palates cloyed with the sugariness of tamed and cultivated fruit.—*Biglow Papers*.

**SHYSTERS.**—Low-class criminal lawyers, who hang about the courts, and tout for custom. They generally demand their fees in advance, and their poor victims, thieves or criminals though they may be, are often left in the lurch without defence.

If men like O'Connor and Evarts are at command on either side for 250 dols. each, why blame a Tombs SHYSTER for taking part of a thief's plunder for defending the thief in court? Why, the counterpart of this very thing is done by lawyers in the upper rank every day. Isn't the best of them ready at any moment to defend an embezzler, or a forger, or a swindling trustee?—*Detroit Free Press*, May 5, 1888.

**SICK.**—(1) Used instead of "ill" which is the term usually employed in England for general ill-health, the word *sick* being confined to vomiting. The American usage is sanctioned by the Bible and the best Old English writers.—(2) Used, also, contemptuously, "He's a *sick* fellow at best," i.e., very indifferent; contemptible; or as English people would say, a sorry fellow.

**SIDE.**—**SIDEHILL.**—A common expression for hillside.—**SIDE-LINE.**—(1) In Demerara, a canal. Every estate has several *side-lines*, communication being carried on by means of these water-ways.—(2) In Canada, a by-road running at right angles to the main or concession roads.—(3) In addition to the usual methods, plainsmen hobble their horses by means of *sidelines*, i.e., they tie a hind to a fore-leg. Hence to *SIDE-LINE*.

The legs of the horses must be secured. This is done by hobbles or *SIDE-LINES*. Hobbles fasten the forefeet together, *SIDE-LINES* the fore and hind foot on the same side. *SIDE-LINES* are most secure, hobbles detract very little from the speed of a really

stamped animal.—*Richard Irvine Dodge's Plains of the Great West.*

—To **SIDE-TRACK**.—To divert the attention; to turn from one's purpose; or to precede others in the battle of life.

Mebbe them thar lieyers **SIDE-TRACKED** him with their everlastin' queshtuns, an' ef so, he warn't so pow'ful much ter blame.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

Perhaps the most numerous class of men who get **SIDE-TRACKED** are those who start in life in an occupation for which they have no natural aptitude.—(*Boston*) *Sturdy Oak*, May, 1888.

—**SIDEWALK**. — A footpath or pavement.

A man fell dead while cleaning the snow off his **SIDEWALK**. It is supposed he suddenly discovered that he had got over the line and removed the snow from nearly six inches of his neighbor's side.—*Norristown Herald*, 1888.

—**SIDE-WINDER**.—A violent blow with the fist. A New York term which in the South is replaced by **SIDE-WIPE**.—**SIDLING**. — A railway term, synonymous with the English siding.

**SIDE POCKET** (Cant).—A curious name given to a drinking saloon in an out-of-the-way place; a resort for thieves.

**SIGN**.—A trapper's term for a trail. In the backwoods and on the plains a man has to be alive at all points to detect traces of his prey; or in the old days of his enemies in the shape of red-skins. These marks he characterizes as buffalo-sign, bear-sign, Indian-sign, fresh-sign, or old-sign, according to the circumstances of the case.

Keep your eye skinned for **SIGN**, and listen to my horn.—*Traits of American Humor*.

—**TAKE IN YOUR SIGN OR SHINGLE** is a peremptory injunction to cease talking or to begone!

**SIGNALIZE, To**.—To signal. A common corruption.

**SILK GRASS** (*Yucca filamentosa*).—The **BEAR GRASS**, so called from its fine, silky fibre.

**SILVER**. — **SILVER FOX** (*Canis argentatus*).—A rare black fox mottled with white, whose skin is much esteemed for muffs and similar small articles. — **SILVER GAR**.—The **BILL FISH** (*q.v.*). — **SILVER GRAYS**.—A nickname given to the Conservative wing of the Whig Party. The term *silver grays* was in allusion to the white hair of the majority of the men, who at a political convention in the State of New York, "bolted the ticket" of their party. As they were passing out, a bystander exclaimed, "there go the *silver grays*."

**SIMILES**.—These are in the main full of pith and point, sententious to a degree, and replete with "live" suggestiveness. The following are representative :—

Like all fury; As long as a thanksgiving sermon; As hot as the devil's kitchen; As quick as greased lightning; As crooked as a Virginia fence; As tight as the bark of a tree; As hungry as a graven image; As handy as a pocket in a shirt; As small as the little end of nothing; Mean enough to steal acorns from a blind hog; Stingy enough to skim his milk at both ends; As proud as a mulatto in a negro congregation; As big as what hogs dream of when they're too fat to snore; So thievish that people have to take in their stone walls at night; To look as solemn as though a stone wall lay on one's grandmother; As busy as a negro in a sugar-cask; As interesting a sight as a shimmy (chemise) in a wash-tub; and whispers of purity, love, harmony, and peace; Great on small wheels, *i.e.*, large pretensions on a slight basis; Cheaper than bull-beef at a penny a pound; As scarce as hen's teeth; As melancholy as a Quaker meeting-house by moonlight; Thrashing round like a short-tailed bull in fly-time; He's a whole team and a dog under the wagon; As sleek and slippery as though he had been taking a hip-bath in a tub of soap-grease; As rough as

the back of a hedgehog, and as foul as Zebedee's hen, that laid three rotten eggs to a good one; Of no more use than it would be to stop up a rat-hole with an apple dumpling.

**SIMMON.**—A contraction for **PERSIMMON** (*q.v.*).

The sweetest, the happiest place on earth  
Is Dixie, sweet Dixie, the land of my birth.  
I wish I was in de land of cotton,  
'SIMMON seed and sandy bottom—  
Chorus.—Look away—look away.  
—*Dixie Land.*

**SING.**—**SINGING.**—A singing practice.

He remembered that there was a **SINGIN'**, as it was called in the country, held every Sunday afternoon in the Timber Creek school-house.—*Century Magazine*, 1887.

—**SINGIST.**—A barbarous form for singer.—*See* **FRUITIST**.

**SINGLEBOB.**—A mark used in branding cattle.—*See* **BRAND**.

**SINK-HOLE.**—Hollows abounding in the Middle and Western States, and especially in the limestone formation of Kentucky.

As soon as the observer comes upon this caverned district of Kentucky, he remarks that he has passed from the region where running brooks abound, and is in a country where there are neither streams, nor the distinct hills and valleys which he is accustomed to see in other lands. The surface of the country is cast into a series of shallow, circular pits, varying in diameter from a few score feet to half a mile or more. So crowded together are these pits, that almost the entire surface lies in some one of these depressions. In the bottom of each of these pits there is normally a vertical shaft, or a series of crevices, down which, in time of rain, the water flows from the drainage-slope of the pit, or **SINK-HOLE**, as it is called in local phrase. Generally these conduits have been closed, by accident or design, in which case a little pool of circular outline occupies the centre of the depression.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

**SIR.**—This title is used to those who serve in shops, a usage which sounds strange to the English ears.—**YES SIRREE! NO SIRREE!**

sometimes with the addition of "bob" or "horse-fly," are merely slang variants of "Yes, sir," "No, sir."

**SISTERS.**—**LET OUR ERRING SISTERS DEPART IN PEACE!**—An expression of Horace Greeley's, at the time of the Rebellion. The *erring sisters* were of course the seceding States.

**SITIO.**—A Spanish superficial measure equal to 4,428 acres, a square league of land. This term is still used in the States formerly under Spanish rule.

**SIT UP WITH. TO.**—An expression which finds its equivalent in the "walking out" of English lovers of the lower classes. American girls are allowed much more freedom than their sisters in the Mother Country, and nothing is thought of a young couple *sitting up* after everyone else has retired, a privilege of which it may be assumed they are not slow to take advantage.

**SIX-SHOOTER.**—A revolver with six chambers.

Three of the party volunteered to go into the patch and bring out two melons each, Fred agreeing to keep a sharp lookout and give the alarm by firing his **SIX-SHOOTER**.—*Forest and Stream*, March 15, 1888.

**SIZE.**—**THAT'S MY SIZE.**—That suits me; I am *arreeable*; "that's the ticket."—**TO SIZE UP.**—To form an opinion concerning a person or thing, the equivalent of **TO TAKE ONE'S MEASURE**.—*See* **MEASURE**.

To one who has had experience in this line of business it is easy to **SIZE UP** a customer, and one who understands the trade rarely loses much time in selling a pair of rubbers.—*Dealer in Globe Democrat*, 1888.



**SIZZLE, TO.**—This Old English word is still colloquial in the States. It signifies the hissing sound produced by heat. Also to SIZZ.

Hot! Hot!! Hot!!!

With an ever-increasing heat!

The mercury leaps o'er the sizzLING spot

On the shady side of the street.

And the hens lay eggs, that are fried both sides;

The sheep are roast mutton while yet in their hides;

And the milk from the cow is boiled as it glides

Out of the burning teat.

—*Rahway Advocate.*

Here is an inexpensive receipt for an omelet, which is very nice: One egg, a pinch of salt, 1 cupful of sweet milk, 1 cupful of flour, 1 heaping teaspoonful of cornstarch dissolved in part of the milk. Heat your spider sizzLING hot, put in a generous piece of butter; beat the above mixture thoroughly and turn into the spider; as soon as it browns turn and roll up, serving immediately.—*Portland Transcript*, 1888.

**SKANES.**—These iron plates, for reducing friction upon axle-trees are, in England, called clouts.

**SKEDADDLE, TO.**—To depart hurriedly; to run away. Cf. ABSQUATULATE.

'Oh, stay,' a collared pusson said,

'An on dis bosom rest your head!'

The Octoroon, she winked her eye,

But still he answered with a sigh, SKE-

DADDLE.

—*Song, Vanity Fair.*

De Vere succinctly summarizes the various conflicting theories as to its origin thus:—"The word *skedaddle* even crossed the Atlantic, and was once gravely discussed in Parliament. It appeared in print, probably for the first time, immediately after the battle of Bull Run, and was at once caught at and repeated all over the country. In answer to inquiries about its origin, some Irishmen at once claimed it as their own, deriving it from their *sgedad-ol*, which means

'scattered all,' and naïvely suggested that one of their valiant countrymen might have uttered the words while running away from Bull Run. It cannot be denied that in an old Irish version of the New Testament the word is used thus: 'I will smite the shepherd and the sheep of the flock shall be *sgedad-ol*.' The soldiers, at all events, were tickled by the sound of the word, which served to give a humorous appearance to a somewhat ignominious act, and thus it spread, appearing in the reports of correspondents of London journals. *The Times* noticed it particularly, and repeated the phrase, 'A Northerner, who retreats, retires upon his supports, but a Southerner is said to *skedaddle*.' Thereupon Lord Hill wrote a letter to prove that the term was excellent Scottish, well known in the North of England also. It is true that in Ayrshire and Dumfriesshire people use it quite frequently to describe the spilling of milk or water from a pail. Milk-maids are heard to say, 'Mind, you are *skedaddling* all your milk' and farther North the dropping of coal from the bucket is also called *skedaddling*. The probability of this derivation is much strengthened by the fact that the word exists in the kindred Scandinavian dialects, as Swedish has a term *skuddadahl*, and Danish its *skyededeht*, with exactly the same meaning; what therefore the Scotch may not have done—importing the word into the army—may have to be credited to the numerous Scandinavians from Wisconsin. A facetious writer in the *Louisville Journal* was probably the first to trace the word to a still more ancient form. He derived it 'from the Greek verb σκεδάννυμι, to scatter or disperse tumultuously,' and its infrequent aorist σκέδασα, used by Herodotus and Homer, the

latter of whom employs also the noun *σκηδασίς* in the sense of an emphatic scatteration." (*Iliad*. xix. 171—xxiii. 162; *Odyssey*, i. 113, as quoted in Crusius Lexicon.) The *Slang Dictionary* endorses this view, declaring that Lord Hill and the *Times* were both in the wrong, and attributing the odd word to some professor at Harvard, who may have set it afloat, utterly unconscious that the bantling would meet with such unexpected success. For whatever it may mean or wherever it may originally come from, there is something so descriptive in the term, that it is likely to maintain itself in our speech in spite of all grammarians, and will probably be proof against all attempts to remove it.

**SKEERED.**—A corruption of "scared."

I didn't feel particularly SKEERED. I knew I had to make a centre shot and mustn't get nervous, even if it did look very scary, but I thought I was equal to him. It ain't any fun to kill a bear sitting up in a tree. Anybody can do that. But when they come to you with their mouths open its just fun.—*Missouri Republican*, 1888.

**SKEET, To.**—To move or run swiftly.

**SKEETER.**—A corruption of "mosquito."

'Children,' said a New Jersey school teacher, 'always be cheerful. Whatever falls to your lot to do, do it cheerfully.'

'Yes, indeed, dear teacher,' responded a bright little Rahway scholar, 'even the SKEETERS sing when they are at work.'—*New York Sun*, 1888.

**SKEEZICKS, SKESICKS.**—A ne'er-do-weel; a good-for-nothing. This Western term, with which is always associated a measure of contempt, is probably from a Dutch word, signifying an idle, contemptible fellow.

**SKIN.**—A sharper; a blackleg.—To SKIN.—(1) To impose upon; to

cheat; to extort.—(2) A college term signifying to use a translation or crib. (See quotation under BOHN, with which compare this usage of *to skin*).—SKIN GAME.—Fraud; chicanery.

The professional boomers, who have been reaping rich harvests here, have exaggerated the attractions beyond all reason, and crowded all the drawbacks clear out of sight. They have been playing a SKIN GAME on the public in the East.—*Florida Times Union*, February 1, 1888.

—SKINNER.—Synonymous with SHYSTER (*q.v.*).—SKIN YOUR OWN SKUNK, *i.e.*, do your own dirty work. Cf. SKUNK.

I'll thank you, when we meet again, not to disremember the old saying, but let every man SKIN HIS OWN SKUNKS.—*David Crockett*.

—KEEP YOUR EYES SKINNED.—See EYES.—To SKIN OUT.—To leave secretly and hastily as when pursued by an enemy.

Sitting Bull (an Indian chief) has SKINNED out from the Yellowstone Valley and sought refuge in Canada.—*American Paper*.

**SKINK (Cant).**—A waiter.

**SKIP!**—This exclamation for Begoné! is a peculiarly American derivative of "to skip." It is equivalent to Git! absquatulate! skedaddle! light-out! etc.—SKIP-JACK.—A popular name in Boston for the bonito; elsewhere the BLUE-FISH is known by this name.

Dr. George Trowbridge thus writes from Sarasota, Fla. :—The fly with red tail, scale-covered orange body, light yellow hackles, and double white wings, has made the following score; February 22, four sea-trout, one SKIP-JACK.—*Forest and Stream*, March 15, 1888.

—SKIPPER.—What is known in England as the cheese-hopper or cheese-mite. Hence SKIPPERY as applied to cheese full of mites.

**SKIRMISH, To.**—To forage; to lay hands upon all that comes in one's way.

Hundreds of Moors come to Tangiers every year, and embark for Mecca. They go part of the way in English steamers; and the ten or twelve dollars they pay for passage is about all the trip costs. They take with them a quantity of food, and when the commissary department fails, they **SKIRMISH**, as Jack terms it in his sinful slangy way. From the time they leave till they get home again, they never wash, either on land or sea.—*Mark Twain's Innocents Abroad.*

**SKITE, To.**—To move about energetically.

**SKIVE, To.**—A New England shoemaker's term for paring leather, so as to leave a bevel edge.—**SKIV-INGS.**—Parings and scraps of leather.

**SKULLDUGGERY.**—A Missourian's term for underhand plotting.

**SKUN.**—(1) A factitious preterite of **TO SCAN.**

Watterson carefully **SKUN** his card again, and called for one paper. Hart breathed a sigh of relief, and wanted two cards. It was the latter's bet, and he felt his way carefully with one seed.—*American Humorist*, Sept. 15, 1888.

—(2) The preterite of **TO SKIN** (*q.v.*), *i.e.*, to hurry along.

Finally the beaver got across the river, and the dog had almost caught him when, phit! the beaver **SKUN** up a tree.—*Mark Twain's Screamers.*

**SKUNK** (*Mephitis mephitica*).—A fetid animal of the weasel kind. When hunted and driven to bay, it emits a most disgusting secretion, from which fact it is called in New England the **ESSENCE PEDDLER** (*q.v.*). Hence the contemptuous employment of the name for a mean, despicable fellow.

'Smiley's a — fool,' interrupted a gloomy voice.

'A particular — **SKUNK**,' added another in sepulchral accents.

A silence followed these positive statements. The old man glanced quickly around the group. Then his face slowly changed. 'That's so,' he said reflectively, after a pause, 'certainly a sort of a **SKUNK** and suthing of a fool. In course.' He was silent for a moment as in painful contemplation of the unsavouriness and folly of the unpopular Smiley.—*Bret Harte's How Santa Claus came to Simpson's Bar.*

—To **SKUNK, TO BE SKUNKED.**

—To utterly defeat, or be defeated.

—**SKUNK-BEAR** (*Gulo luscus*).—A Western term for the wolverine or **CARCAJOU** (*q.v.*).—**SKUNK-BLACK-BIRD.**—A popular name in New England, and farther North, even to Canada, for the common marsh blackbird, nicknamed by Henry Ward Beecher, the "polyglot, who describes the way they talked at the winding up of the Tower of Babel."

—**SKUNK CABBAGE** (*Symplocarpus foetidus*).—A plant which, despite its vile odor and unattractive form, is of medicinal value in asthma and other disorders.—**SKUNK-HEAD** (*Anas labradora*).—The pied duck.

**SKUNNER.**—In Pennsylvania, this corruption of "scorner," expresses the contempt and dislike felt and is not, as might be expected, employed for the person who scorns.

**SKY.**—**SKYGODLIN.**—Obliquely, in a crooked manner.—**SKY-PILOT.**—A clergyman; a term originating in sea phraseology.—**SKY-SCRAPING.**—Tall, literally touching the sky; a sailor's term for the light sails, which Yankee salts, true to the traditions of the speech of their great country, are fond of crowding on in the shape of **SKY-SCRAPERS** and **MOON-RAKERS**. The latter terms are popularly applied to a man, building, or other object beyond the ordinary height.



The SKY-SCRAPING buildings around town are expensive to take care of. The larger ones require the services of anywhere from ten to twenty men. There is a superintendent and his assistant, a head janitor, and half-a-dozen assistants, from two to six elevator men, an engineer, fireman, electrician, machinist, carpenter, and sometimes a guide to stand at the entrance and direct people to the tenants' offices. Saturday nights this force is reinforced by scrubwomen and men who wash the sidewalks. Some of the tenants, too, call in outside janitors.—*Chicago Herald*, 1888.

**SKYUGLE OR SCYUGLE.**—A factitious word varying in orthography, which means everything, anything, or nothing—a term claiming insertion by right whenever one is at a loss for a word. It is said to have originated with the Union soldiers during the Civil War. Considering the many words and phrases which then first saw the light, time must occasionally have hung very heavily on hand—possibly during the twelve months in which, according to the *New York Herald*, they were “marching on to Richmond.”

[An officer, writing from headquarters in Virginia, says:]—A corps staff-officer dismounted near me a moment ago. I inquired where he had been riding. He informed me that he had been out on a general SCYUGLE; that he had SCYUGLED along the front, when the rebels SCYUGLED a bullet through his clothes; that he should SCYUGLE his servant, who, by the way, had SCYUGLED three fat chickens, for a supply of ice; that after he had SCYUGLED his dinner, he proposed to SCYUGLE a nap.—*Army and Navy Journal*, July 11, 1864.

**SLAB.**—The outside of logs of wood which is generally cast aside as useless. Hence idiomatically a shaky or worthless character, who sometimes, for the same reason, is termed SLAB-BRIDGED. Lowell points out that whoever has driven over a stream by a bridge made of *slabs* will feel the force of the epithet.

There was a fellow travelling around in that country, said Mr. Nickerson, with a moral religious show—a sort of scriptural

panorama—and he hired a wooden-headed old SLAB to play the piano for him.—*Mark Twain's Screamer*.

—To SLAB.—To make roads round the sides of mountains.—To SLAB OFF.—To cast on one side as useless.—SLAB-SIDED.—With perpendicular sides like a mountain that is *slabbed*.

**SLACKWATER NAVIGATION.**—An arrangement of dams and locks for keeping a sufficient supply of water in a river not otherwise navigable at all seasons.

**SLANTENDICULAR.**—Awry; oblique. A factitious word formed from “slant” on the model of “perpendicular.” Although an Americanism originally, it is now perfectly acclimatized in English slang.—So, also, SLANTENDICULARLY or SLANTWISE for obliquely.

**SLAPJACKS.**—Pancakes, which in England are called “flap-jacks.”

We trotted on very fast, in the assurance of rapidly approaching a snug breakfast of chicken fixins, eggs, ham doins, and corn SLAPJACKS.—*Carlton's New Purchase*.

**SLASHES.**—Low swampy land covered with bush is so denominated in several parts of the Union. In New York ground on which the brushwood has been cut and left lying is called SLASH GROUND.

**SLATHERS.**—A large quantity; a “lot.” Common everywhere.

Sagebrush ought to have been on hand with a blazing pine-knot fire and SLATHERS of chuck piled up ready for us to sail in and fill up.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, February 6, 1888.

**SLAVE, SLAVERY.**—Many of the terms connected with the one time “peculiar institution” of the United States, have happily long since

lost their force and meaning. The agitation in favor of the abolition of *slavery* began in pre-Revolutionary days, and ended in the national upheaval known as the Civil War. Amongst the terms, of which the meaning is still obvious, may be mentioned SLAVE-BREEDER, SLAVE-DEALER, SLAVE-HUNT, SLAVE-LABOR, SLAVE-LIBERATOR, SLAVE-OWNER, SLAVER, SLAVE-SHIP, SLAVE-STATE. Other terms, however, need an explanatory word.—SLAVE-CODE.—Laws relating to the possession of slaves, and the existence of slavery within the States concerned.—SLAVE-DRIVER.—An overseer on an estate having charge of, and directing the work of slaves.—SLAVE-LORD.—A man whose property in slaves made him a person of distinction in the community.—SLAVE-OCRACY.—The slave-holding class; those who politically and socially represented its interests.—SLAVE-OCRAT.—A holder of slaves.—SLAVONIA.—The former slave-holding States.—SLAVE STATES.—These, as they existed prior to the Civil War, were Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.—SLAVE-PEN.—A place of confinement for slaves.—SLAVIST.—One who favored slavery.

**SLED.**—Flint says: "The ferry-flat is a scow boat, and, when used as a boat of descent for families, has a roof or covering. These are sometimes in the vernacular phrase called *sleds*."—*Hist. and Geog. of Miss. Valley*.

**SLEEP, To.**—Many verbs, which in England are only used passively, are, in America, forced into violent active duty. Thus a host "eats"

all his guests, and a sleeping-car on a railway *sleeps* so many passengers, *i.e.*, finds sleeping accommodation. Another curious case in point is where a mule is said to be capable of riding (as to weight) his man. Mules, no doubt, are capable of anything, but one unaccustomed to the philological perversion would be in some doubt as to whether the mule rode the man or *vice versd.*—SLEEPER.—A sleeping-car.—SLEEPERS.—One of the nicknames assumed by, or given to the Mollie Maguires.

'Not one of that number, but of the great secret order, here called the SLEEPERS.' 'An' phat are the SLAPERS?' 'They are the Mollie Maguires! There's a heap of them in this district.'—*Pinkerton's Mollie Maguires*.

—SLEEPING-CAR.—These cars on railways are now fairly well known in England.

**SLICE.**—A large fire-shovel.

**SLICK.**—Easily; rapidly; effectively; cutely. Every transatlantic writer on American English has very rightly insisted on the ancient usage of *slick* for sleek, or glossy. Lowell points out that Chapman and Jonson both use it, and De Vere further substantiates its position as an English provincialism. Still, in senses other than sleek, smooth, or glossy, the word is, undoubtedly, an Americanism, and it is not difficult to understand the process of transition from the orthodox meaning to its vulgar significations. Judge Halliburton is mainly responsible for its popularity as part of the vulgar tongue, he having introduced into his writings many phrases, of which it formed an important component. Americans are very careful to draw a distinction between "sleek" and *slick*. For example, a mule may have a sleek and glossy coat, and

yet be the *slickest* critter topside dirt in converting his hind legs into a yard measure, and the meanings are distinctly different, as those who know will bear witness. The New Englander has a proverb which aptly illustrates the usage concerning *slick*. He says down East an animal's ear can be taken off so *slick*, that he does not know he is one ear short till he puts up his forefoot to scratch it.—To *SLICK UP* is also peculiarly American, and here the original meaning is retained. It means to smooth; to render glossy and sleek. —*SLICK* AS A WHISTLE, *SLICK AS GREASE*, etc., are idioms and similes, which in view of the foregoing need no further explanation. —To *SLICK OFF*.—To turn out quickly; to execute with ease.

Hosea ses taint hardly fair to call 'em hisn now, cos the parson kind o' *SLICKED* off sum o' the last vurses, but he told Hosee he didn't want to put his ore in to tetch to the Rest on em, bein they wuz very well As they wuz.—*Biglow Papers*.

—*SLICKER*.—On the plains and in the West a water-proof oil coat.

We had turned the horses loose, and in our oilskin *SLICKERS* cowered, soaked and comfortless, under the lee of the wagon, to take a meal of damp bread and lukewarm tea, the sizzling embers of the fire having about given up the ghost after a fruitless struggle with the steady downpour.—*Century Magazine*, 1887.

*SLIDE*.—LET IT *SLIDE*.—A frequent expression for "let it go"; don't trouble! General Bank's famous phrase, "Let the Union *slide*," is now historical.—To *SLIDE OUT*.—To depart stealthily; to shirk responsibility, or labor.

*SLIM*.—An old friend with a new face. From its meaning of thin it has come to be used of a person in poor health; sickly looking; thin in face or figure. Also, idiomatically,

for one of indifferent standing in the community, either as regards social position, morals, or politics.

*SLIMSY*.—Slightly made; frail in build; flimsy in texture.

*SLING*.—(1) Formerly a drink, composed of rum, soda-water, ice, lemon, and sugar. Gin is now, however, generally substituted for rum.—*See DRINKS*.—(2) Americans have considerably extended the slang usage of *sling*. Besides bearing the senses of to pass from one person to another, or to move; *sling* is employed to indicate, subject to qualification, ease and rapidity of action of all kinds. Thus to *sling* a nasty pen is to write a bad hand or "fist"; to *sling* a foot or leg, to dance; to *sling* a knife and fork, to ply those weapons with efficiency.

*SLINK*.—A sneak; one who acts in an underhand manner; "a snake in the grass." — *SLINKY*.—Thin; lanky.

*SLIPE*.—A distance.

*SLIPPER-DOWN*.—Hasty pudding is thus curiously named in some parts.

*SLIPPY-NOOSE*.—A running knot.

*SLOONLY*.—Badly attired; slovenly dressed. "He's *sloonly*."

*SLOPE*.—THE PACIFIC *SLOPE*.—The Pacific coast.

Pfeffer is looking exceedingly well, having gained twenty-five pounds on his trip to the *SLOPE*.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*, 1888.

—To *SLOPE*.—To decamp; to run away; to elope. This slang term was originally American, but



may now be classed as cosmopolitan (French slang has introduced *sloper*, to *slope*). Various derivations are advanced,—from "elope"; from "the sloping movement of the sun when setting"; and from "lope" (let's lope). Used also as a noun in the sense of flight. Also SLOPER, one who decamps.

**SLOP OVER, TO.**—An expressive though vulgar synonym for to miss one's mark, or to make a blunder through an effusive demonstration of feeling.

**SLOSH ABOUT, SLOSH AROUND, TO.**—Usually applied in the West to those who, half-fuddled by drink, wander aimlessly from place to place, taking "refreshers" *en route*, and making themselves generally objectionable to all with whom they come in contact.

**SLOUCH.**—No SLOUCH.—Generally used in the negative, when a high mead of praise is conveyed by the idiom.

In Volapük, galon means to rejoice. That is what a young man does when he has a gal on his knee. Volapük is no SLOUCH of a language after all.—*Norristown Herald*, 1888.

Then wounded Cæsar exclaimed, 'Et tu Brute,' and expired. In the excitement naturally incident to an assassination in which Cæsar had been chosen to act as the corpse, his great sang froid in addressing Brutus in perfectly correct Latin shows that he well deserved the tribute paid him by an eminent historian, whose name at this moment has escaped my memory, in which he stated that Cæsar was no SLOUCH.—*Bill Nye*, in *New York World*, 1888.

**SLOUGH-GRASS.**—A marsh grass.

**SLUG, TO.**—An alternative form of "slog," to beat; as also is SLUGGER of "slogger," a prize-fighter.

The pupil was on time, and when he stripped Mike observed that big knots of

muscles were scattered all over his body. Mike resolved to SLUG him soundly, and thus discourage further business.—*Missouri Republican*, February 24, 1888.

When a local SLUGGER wants to get advertised in England nowadays he just challenges John L. Sullivan, and his name is in all of the papers at once. Jack Knifton is the latest to try the dodge. Of course, he never intends to fight.—*Boston Daily Globe*, 1888.

**SLUICE.**—A trough used by miners in washing earth for gold. Also with a similar meaning to SLUICE.—To SLUICE OFF.—To divert; to lay aside.

**SLUM GULLION.**—A washy, cheap beverage.

**SLUMP.**—See APPLE SLUMP.—**SLUMPY.**—A New England word to describe wet snow. It is also used in the same sense in Canada.—To SLUMP OFF.—To veer; to move away from; and idiomatically of stocks and shares, to fall in value.

'How's North-western this morning, Uncle Zeke?' asked Dick Spriggs across the restaurant table. 'SLUMPED off six points, hang it!' scowling viciously over his paper at the steak brought by the waiter.—*Detroit Free Press*, 1888.

**SLUNK.**—When the young of an animal, *e.g.*, a cow, is prematurely brought forth, it is said to be a *slunk* calf.

**SMALLER.**—A small glass of spirits, sometimes used derisively.

Bring us one of the largest kind of SMALLERS, a tumbler full of brandy and water, with no water in it.—*J. C. Neal's Charcoal Sketches*.

**SMALL POTATOES**, used as a term of contempt, is quite familiar to English ears; not so, however, are some of the emphatic terms of the expression current in America. There,

one constantly hears a petty, mean, or contemptible thing described as "*small potatoes*"—few in a hill—the hills fur apart—and a gra-ate way to go and dig 'em,' etc., etc.

**SMALL SNOW** (Cant).—Children's linen.

**SMART**.—This adjective, like cunning, clever, and a few others, bears a different interpretation across the water to that which obtains in England. A *smart* man in America is quick, shrewd, and intelligent, whereas in England, apart from its application to dress, *smart* is used in the sense of superficial showiness of character, or ability, combined with more or less wit. In the West *smartness* would enable a thief to steal a log with a watchman asleep on the bark. Perhaps the most distinctive American usage is *right smart*, used superlatively in various connections.

**SMEAR**.—A little dinner, tea-party, or similar entertainment is thus vulgarly designated; one would almost prefer the equally vulgar, though infinitely more sensible, "feed."—**SMEAR-CASE**.—A kind of home-made cheese which, in New York, is called *POT-CHEESE*; in other parts it is known as *COTTAGE-CHEESE*. From the Dutch *smeer-haas*.

**SMELL-DOG**.—A SPIKE-TAILED SMELL-DOG.—A jocosé name for a dog used in sport; one that retrieves.—**SMELL-LEMON** (*Cucurbita ovifera*).—The popular name is derived from the fragrant and yellow-striped orange-like fruit of this plant.—**SMELLING COMMITTEE**.—An investigating committee where the matter to be inquired into is unpopular, and unsavory details are expected to be brought to light.

The phrase was first used in connection with the examination under Government warrant of a Massachusetts convent.

**SMILE**.—A nip; dram; or "drink." This is, perhaps, one of the oddest conversions of terms imaginable, though the process of transition is sufficiently obvious. A good story appeared in *Blackwood* some years ago, wherein it is related, that Mrs. Christie, an American lady, had sent some fine old rye whiskey to an Englishman who, unconscious of the pun, said to a travelling companion, an American, "This cannot be called *Lacrymæ Christi*, suppose we call it *Smiles of Christi*!" "Good," said the American, "I see you are learning our language!"

The moon would be rising about ten o'clock, and as nothing would be done till then, we took a *SMILE* of old Bourbon apiece, and turned our attention to cooking bear steaks.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, February 6, 1888.

—To *SMILE*.—To take a drink; to tipple.—**WELL! I SHOULD SMILE!** is a slang expression used to convey (1) a feeling of wonder or surprise at any incident or statement not altogether creditable; and negatively (2) in the sense of disbelief.

**WELL, I SHOULD SMILE not!** I started right after dinner, and kept on the go until ten last night, and I had a perfectly elegant time.—*Detroit Free Press*, May 5, 1888.

**SMOKE**.—To *SMOKE ONE*.—To make game of; or to talk satirically to a person with the object of befooling him. Figuratively, to becloud and render vague by clouds of *smoke*. In English detective slang to *smoke* is to detect or penetrate an artifice.

The judge had no idea that Tom was *SMOKING* him.—*Slick's Americans at Home*, p. 14.

—**SMOKE STACK.**—A chimney; a funnel of a steamer.

'What's the matter?' was chorussed in whispers.

'I see a SMOKE STACK and a flag-staff. It's a tug.'

'Then comes the tug of war,' responded one, who could not miss the opportunity for a joke.

'Yes, and as she comes by steam we are goners,' remarked another.—*Long Branch News*, April 7, 1888.

And, sure's you're born, they all got off

Afore the SMOKE-STACK fell,—

And Bludsoe's ghost went up alone

In the smoke of the *Prairie Belle*.

—*Col. John Hay's Jim Bludsoe, or the Prairie Belle*.

—**SMOKY CITY.**—Pittsburg; also

**IRON CITY.** Pittsburg is the American Birmingham, the centre of the iron and hardware industries.

—**TO SMOKE THE PIPE OF PEACE OR WAR.**—See **CALUMET**.

**SMOOTH.**—A meadow.

**SMORNING.**—A telegraphic code word in general use for "this morning."

**SMOUCH, To.**—(1) In Pennsylvania to take a kiss by stealth. — (2) *To smouch* is generally colloquial for to steal; to crib; to plagiarize, in which sense it was used by Milton.

The Mormon Bible is rather stupid and tiresome to read, but there is nothing vicious in its teachings. Its code of morals is unobjectionable—it is *SMOUCED* from the New Testament and no credit given.—*Mark Twain's Roughing It*.

'I don't mind letting on we was at it a hundred and fifty years. It wouldn't strain me none after I got my hand in. So I'll mosey along now, and *smouch* a couple of case-knives.' 'Smouch three,' he says; 'we want one to make a saw out of.'—*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, p. 366.

**SMOUZE, To.**—An Ohio term signifying to cause to collapse by a blow; to make a clean sweep of.

**SMUDGE.**—A smothered fire used by backwoodsmen for the purpose of keeping off flies and mosquitoes. Gray, an old English writer, employs *smudge* in a somewhat similar sense.

**SMUT-MILL.**—Among American farmers a contrivance for dealing with "smutty" wheat.—Also **SMUT MACHINE**.

**SNABBY OR SNAB.**—An American Alma Mater term to designate a good-looking, stylish man or woman, or anything "tasty" and of good quality.

**SNABLE, To** (Cant).—To plunder; also to kill.

**SNACKED.**—Drunk; intoxicated. A Southern equivalent of the more common **SNAPPED**.

**SNAG.**—The Western application of *snag* for a sunken tree whose roots are fast in a river bed is perhaps American, but the word itself has never lost currency in England, Johnson having defined it as "a jag or sharp protuberance." *Snags* and *SAWYERS* are fruitful sources of impediment to navigation on the Mississippi and other large rivers, and frequently fatal. Hence the verb **TO SNAG**, to come in contact with a sunken tree or projecting branch.

'Been boating, Ben, since I met you?' I inquired after a short pause.

'Well, yes, mostly,' answered Ben, deliberately. 'Drove a pretty fair business last year; only sunk one broad-horn, and that war *SNAGGED* on the Mississippi.'—*Ben Wilson's Jug Race*.

—The danger thus attending navigation on American waterways has led to the invention of a contrivance for removing these obstructions. Steamers so fitted are called **SNAG BOATS**.



**SNAIL ALONG, To.**—To move along in a leisurely fashion after the manner of snails.

They kep' pokin' 'long, pokin' 'long, an' Charlie 'lowed to get out and walk if the hill got much steeper. So they leaned for'ards, an' part o' the time hung on to the dashboard with their hands if they did strike a little hill, an' kep' SNAILIN' 'LONG, SNAILIN' 'LONG.—*Texas Siftings*, September 15, 1888.

**SNAKE.**—This oftentimes venomous reptile has furnished the backwoodsman and pioneer with not a few similes and terms, most of which have found their way into the popular speech all over the Union.—To SNAKE, or to SNAKE ALONG, is (1) to crawl or creep along after the manner of *snakes*, *i.e.*, on the stomach, and idiomatically to proceed stealthily, or with caution. By a further amplification of the original idiom, *snaking* in politics or the affairs of everyday life, signifies the employment of secret, underhand methods; a striving for an advantage by means not open and above-board. Also to proceed quickly from place to place, as when a *snake* is disturbed, and has been put to flight.

Four buckskin cayuses SNAKED us along in great style until the tongue of the stage broke and gave us a mile tramp to the next station. Damages repaired by a roadside blacksmith, the journey was resumed over an awfully bad road.—*San Francisco Weekly Examiner*, March 22, 1888.

—(2) In the South to *snake* means to beat; to give a drubbing.—SNAKE-DOCTOR.—A South-western term for a dragon-fly.—SNAKE FENCE.—A serpentine circuitous fence; one following the rise and fall and windings of the land.

Yonder are a shed and a corn-crib, and a leaning stack of fodder, and a blue-stem collard patch and SNAKE FENCES, and vehicles that have stood in the weather until sun-struck.—*Century Magazine*, 1888.

—SNAKE-HEAD RAIL.—A flat kind of rail used on early railways, part of

which, becoming detached and bent upward, often caused serious accidents. This rail is no longer used; the present form entirely obviates the slightest possibility of such catastrophes.—SNAKE ROOT.—Various Indian remedies for snake bites, many of which, though out of favor as antidotes for injuries of this character, are still used in medicine on account of other valuable properties.—SNAKE SURE. Quite sure; certain; without doubt.

'Got a headache,' said Davy, as he hung back. 'Honest?' 'Yes, orful honest. Feels like it 'ud split.' 'Shucks! You's bashful! You's afraid he'll poke fun at we'uns! But he won't, Davy. Pop's dun told him we're to jine, and he says it's right. He'un won't laff, Davy.' 'Fur shore?' 'For SNAKE SHORE.'—*Detroit Free Press*, Sept. 8, 1888.

—GREAT SNAKES! A euphemistic oath.—To HAVE SNAKES IN ONE'S BOOTS.—To be fidgetty; uneasy; and more forcibly, to have delirium tremens.

'Charlie, I am afraid that if Guzzleby don't stop drinking soon he'll have SNAKES IN HIS BOOTS.' 'I'm not.' 'Why not?' 'Why, there isn't a SNAKE in the world that hasn't more self-respect than to be seen in his company.' 'Ah, but you know that delirium tremens is only an affection of the mind.' 'Then I'm sure Guzzleby won't have them.'—*Texas Siftings*, 1888.

—AS SURE AS THERE'S SNAKES IN VIRGINNY.—A simile for absolute certainty; a very old expression, and doubtless an allusion to the frequency with which at one time *snakes* were to be met with in this State.—To WAKE SNAKES.—An American equivalent of "to rouse sleeping dogs"; and further, in allusion to the hissing and wriggling noise consequent upon disturbing a nest of these reptiles, a *waking of snakes* has also come to be synonymous with noisy frolicsomeness. Yet another meaning is attached to this term, derived from the speed with which one would

put as great a distance as possible between himself and these venomous reptiles—to run with alacrity; to bolt away.—**SNAKE STORY.**—An incredible narration; from the nonsensical yarns told by travellers concerning certain sections of the animal creation; e.g., **MULE STORIES** (q.v.), **FISH STORIES** (q.v.), etc. These narratives are of the “sea serpent,” and “big gooseberry” type, and the following are fair samples of their kind.

A big **SNAKE STORY** comes from Mount Holly, in Berkeley County, S.C. A party of negroes were cutting upon a lightwood log of large circumference and great length, when it suddenly began to move slowly off toward a creek about ten feet distant. The negroes were stricken with terror, and they at once dropped their axes and stampeded. Dr. Byrd, in charge of the hands, tried to recall them, but they continued their flight, without even once looking back. In the mean time the log was travelling steadily toward the creek. As it fell into the water, the source of its power of locomotion was revealed in a most astounding manner. Hundreds of hissing serpents leaped forth from their hiding places in the log and darted forth in different directions in the water. The **SNAKES** were of the genuine water moccasin species, varying in length from that of a buggy spoke to a hoe handle. Dr. Byrd and others stood by, watching the **SNAKES** depart, and their going consumed fully thirty minutes. Three of the negroes who fled when the log began to move have not since been heard from.—*Atlanta Constitution*, 1888.

‘Do you want some items about **SNAKES**?’ asked an agriculturally-rural-looking gentleman of the *Eagle’s* city editor the other day. ‘If they are fresh and true,’ responded the city editor. ‘Exactly,’ replied the farmer. ‘These items are both. Nobody knows ‘em but me. . . . I’ve got a baby six months old. He’s a boy. We generally sit him out on the grass of a morning, and he hollers like a bull all day; at least he used to, but he don’t any more. One morning we noticed he wasn’t hollowing, and wondered what was up. When we looked, there was a rattlesnake coiled up in front of him scanning his features. The boy was grinning and the **SNAKE** was grinning. Bimeby the **SNAKE** turned his tail to the baby and backed his rattle right into the baby’s fist.’ ‘What did the baby do?’ ‘Why, he just rattled that tail so you could hear it three quarters of a mile, and the **SNAKE** layed there and grinned. Every morning we

found the **SNAKE** there, until one day a bigger **SNAKE** came and the baby played with his rattle just the same till the first **SNAKE** came back. He looked thin, and I reckon he had been sick and sent the other to take his place. Will that do for an item?’ ‘Immensely,’ replied the city editor. . . . ‘Any more?’ ‘I don’t call any to mind just at present. My wife knows a lot of **SNAKE** items, but I forget ‘em. By the way, though, I’ve got a regular living curiosity down at my place. One day my oldest boy was sitting on the back stoop doing his sums, and he couldn’t get ‘em right. He felt something against his face, and there was a little **SNAKE** coiled up on his shoulder and looking at the slate. In four minutes he had done all them sums. We’ve tamed him so he keeps all our accounts, and he is the lightestest cuss at figures you ever seen. He’ll run up a column eight feet long in three seconds. I wouldn’t take a reaper for him.’ ‘What kind of a **SNAKE** is he?’ inquired the editor, curiously. ‘The neighbours call him an adder.’ ‘Oh yes! yes!’ said the city editor, a little disconcerted. ‘I’ve heard of the species. When did all these things happen?’ ‘Along in the fore part of the spring, but I didn’t say anything about ‘em, ‘cause it wasn’t the season for **SNAKE** items. This is about the time for that sort of thing, isn’t it?’ ‘Yes,’ chipped in the exchange editor, ‘You couldn’t have picked out a better time for **SNAKE** stories.’—*Robert J. Burdette*.

**SNAP.**—A period; a portion; a share.

This word is very popularly colloquial in the States, chiefly in respect to the weather, as a cold *snap*,” but also in each of its other significations.

‘I won’t agree to no such bender,’  
Sez Isrel; ‘keep it tell it’s tender;  
‘Taint wuth a **SNAP** afore it’s ripe;  
Sez Joe, ‘I’d jest ez lives eat tripe;  
You air a buster ter suppose  
I’d eat what makes me hol’ my nose!’  
—*Biglow Papers*.

Our little **SNAP** of cold weather has come and gone. Of course there were some results. The callas, just putting forth a wealth of white blossoms, fell down and became sickly. The tender leaves of the lemon trees began to droop, and some have fallen down.—*San Francisco Weekly Bulletin*, 1888.

—Hence, idiomatically, **SOFT SNAP**, i.e., a good or easy time; a profitable experience. When produce rules high in price, it is said to be having a **SOFT SNAP**.

No the lighthouse-keeper does not have a **SOFT SNAP**. He can subordinate his light to nothing. It is no available excuse for his light to be out that his wife was dying and he could not leave her. He may be satisfied that the tower he is stationed in will totter and fall in ruins within the next hour, but he must keep its light going as long as it stands. The absence of a light for one minute may result in disaster to life and property on the seas. One single instance of neglect in keeping a light going according to instructions, is sure to be followed by immediate dismissal.—*New York Sun*, 1888.

—**SNAP BEANS OR SNAPS**.—French beans, from their crispness and the easy manner in which they *snap* asunder when fresh.—**SNAP**, or **SNAP AND GO** is also used in the sense of energy; smartness; an idiomatic extension of the legitimate meaning of "to break short," as when crisp.

The International Council of Women began its sessions this morning. It had a **SNAP AND GO** with it from the outset. Women's gatherings here are in one respect like the circus and the races—they always bring rain. The downfall to-day might have depressed any other assemblage, but it had not a ghost of a show with this one.—*New York Herald*, March 27, 1888.

—Used adjectively for rapid; quick; without hesitation; as, for example, a *snap* vote, *i.e.*, a vote taken say by show of hands.

Within the hour the chairman of the committee insists upon the previous question. Five out of six of the members of his party are busy with their mails, or are engaged in conversation. A **SNAP VIVA VOCE** vote is taken, and a **DIVISION** is demanded. There is a cry of all up, and many arise without a definite conception of the question at issue. Most of them vote simply to sustain the action of the committee; with some it seems to be a point of honor.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, February 16, 1888.

It is curious to note that this old cant word has been perverted in application. In England it is confined to articles or circumstances out of which money may be made—a windfall, or an odd job.—**SNAP-NECK**.—In New Jersey, **APPLE BRANDY** (see under **APPLE**) is

so-called.—**SNAPPED**.—A Southern term applied to a drunken man. If not altogether broken off short, such an one is decidedly unbent.—**SNAPPER** or **SNAPPING TURTLE**.—A tortoise, which derives its specific name from its pugnacious habits. It is common throughout the Union.

**SNARL**.—This term for angry disputation is far more colloquial in the United States than in England. It is also used to signify a difficulty; "a tight place" as regards money matters; or the "corner" into which one is driven by arguments that cannot be withstood.

At last his affairs became badly entangled. His purchase of the lease of the Fourteenth-street Theatre at a high figure got him into a **SNARL**. Somehow, though he had made a great deal of money, it did not remain with him.—*Detroit Free Press*, September 8, 1888.

**SNATCH**.—**TO SNATCH ONE BALD-HEADED**.—See **BALD-HEADED**.—**TO BE SNATCHED**.—In the Southwest to be flurried; put out of countenance. "Don't be *snatched*," *i.e.*, keep calm.

**SNEAK THIEF**.—A thief who sneaks about when intent on business. In English slang such an one is called a "sneaksman"—a petty cowardly thief.

The residence of J. McClosky, No. 4030 Chestnut-street, was visited by a **SNEAK THIEF** last night, and three overcoats are missing.—*Philadelphia Evening Bulletin*, February 23, 1888.

**SNEEZER**.—An out-and-out, thorough-going man, action, or thing.

**SNELT**.—(1) A wild plum.—(2) See **LEADER**.

**SNIDE**.—An English slang term which is quite colloquial across the water whence it may have come in



the first instance. It means bad ; spurious ; contemptible.

No SNIDE goods in stock ; everything first-class and guaranteed to please or the money cheerfully refunded.—*Advertisement in Denver Republican*, May 6, 1888.

The capitol of Missouri was erected in 1836. These were the better days of the Republic, and contractors never performed a SNIDE job.—*Missouri Republican*, February 15, 1888.

**SNIFTER.**—To TAKE A SNIFTER.—To take refreshment in the shape of "a nip of something neat."

He leaned back and closed his eyes, and murmured : 'Thank Heaven he's better. He is slowly convalescing. Bring up a bottle of brandy !' He poured out a pretty good SNIFTER, and told me to take about four such drinks every day, while I was convalescing.—*Texas Siftings*, August 8, 1888.

**SNIP.**—An overdressed man ; a coxcomb ; a finical person.

Miss Clara.—'I declare I was never so insulted in my life. Oh, how I hate him !'  
Miss Angle.—'Whom ?'  
Miss Clara.—'That young SNIP of a Dumfoole.'—*Boston Post*, 1888.

—Hence SNIPTIOUS, RESNIP-TIOUS, and SNIPPY.—Various degrees in the West of gaily attired and finical.

Sam.—'Oh, jest thought I'd come down ter see you step off.'

'Good boy. Look at her Sam (pointing at the girl), ain't she SNIPSHUS ? Don't you wush you'd a-won the fight ?'

'Don't jolt me too much about it, Bill, fur I mout not give her up yit.'—*Portland Transcript*, February 29, 1888.

**SNIPE.**—A Wall Street term for an outside or curbstone broker ; a bucket-shop man.

**SNITS.**—A Pennsylvania Dutch contraction of the German *schnitzel* for slices of dried fruit.

**SNOB.**—A journeyman shoemaker. An Old English usage, which has

well-nigh disappeared in the Mother Country ; it is not much used in America, save in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.

**SNOOP, To.**—A New York expression for eating by stealth.—To SNOOP ALONG.—To put in an appearance, generally by stealth.

She told him that she wasn't afraid of reporters, and the detectives might SNOOP ALONG if they wanted to.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, April 13, 1888.

**SNOOSER.**—An hotel thief who lives in the place, and thus seeks for opportunities to carry out his depredations.

**SNORE.**—A boy's name for a top string, probably confined to New York.  
—I SNORE.—An oath, the sting in the sound of which is supposed to have been extracted.

**SNORT.**—A *snort* of whiskey is a dram ; a nip ; a small quantity ; equivalent to a SMILE.—To SNORT.—To laugh derisively ; to pooh ! pooh ! This meaning is not given in the dictionaries.

'Los' his case ? That can't be,' said another, who was known to his comrades as Long Tim. 'I ree-collec' how old man Bamford SNORTED when the jury come in. They gin him six thousan' dollars. I war thar at the trial an' heern it all.'—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

—SNORTER.—When applied to a man, *snorter* indicates one in the possession of great animal spirits ; idiomatically, however, the term is applied to anything out of the common, and indicates no small measure of praise.

**SNOW (Cant).**—Linen.

**SNOWBALL.**—A negro, on the principle of a *tort et à travers*.

**SNUB UP, To.**—To tie up; to secure.

—**SNUBBING-POST.**—A post to which horses and cattle are secured.

The stable, sheds, and other outbuildings, with the hayricks and the pens for such cattle as we bring in during winter, are near the house; the patch of fenced garden land is on the edge of the woods; and near the middle of the glade stands the high, circular horse-corral, with a **SNUBBING-POST** in the centre.—*Ranch Life in the Far West*.

**SNUCKS.**—A corruption of "snacks."

To go *snucks*, i.e., to go halves.

**SNUFF - DIPPER. SNUFF SWAB.** — See under **DIP**.

**SNUG, To.**—To conceal; to hide from view.

**SNUM.**—I **SNUM**.—I vow; I declare; —the nearest approach to absolute veracity, short of a sworn legal oath that the New Englander knows.

**SOAK.**—To pawn; to pledge.

Reading an article the other day on the evil of the pawn-shops in our cities reminded me of a young friend. In an evil, thoughtless hour his companions enticed him into the lair of the destroyer, and scarcely knowing what he did, he **SOAKED** a bone-handled revolver, the gift of his Sunday-school teacher, for 7 dols.—*Denver Republican*, May 6, 1888.

—**SOAK-ABOUT.**—A boys' game, described in quotation.

At school, when the young master saw the boys playing at the boisterous and promiscuous **SOAK-ABOUT**, he would sometimes catch the contagion of the wild fun, and, thrusting his Livy into the desk, rush out of the door to mix in the confusion, throwing the yarn ball at one and another with vigor and accuracy of aim.—*Century Magazine*, 1887.

**SOAP.**—In the Presidential campaign of 1880 this term was used in telegrams by the Republicans as a cipher for money. In 1884 it was employed by the Democrats as a

derisive party-cry aimed at their opponents.—**SOAP-BERRY** (*Sapindus marginatus*).—A tree, common in the South and South-west. Its hard, black berries are strung like beads for various kinds of knick-nacks.—**SOAP-LOCK.**—The "bow-catcher" of English costermongers, and familiarly known in politer circles as a kiss-curl. The feminine counterpart is called a **SPIT-CURL**, and the suggestion as to the means by which this short voluted curl is kept in place is in either case somewhat disgusting. A gang of New York rowdies were once called *soap-locks* on account of this peculiarity in their appearance. — **SOAP-PLANT.** — See **AMOLE**.

**SOARY.**—A derivation of "soar," with which it is closely allied in meaning.

**SOBBED.**—Soaked; saturated; very moist.

**SODDOLAGER, SOCKDOLAGER.**—(1) A heavy blow; a conclusive argument; a winding-up—a general "finisher." The etymology of this strange word has been variously worked out. Some think it a corruption of "doxology," and hence a signal of dismissal. This may be; but others, obviously misunderstanding the matter, derive it from *slog*, to hit out hard, and write it *slogdolager*. Hotten, however, seems to have arrived at another equally plausible derivation when tracing it to the Italian *stoccado*, a fencing term. May it not possibly be derived from *sock*, to strike a hard blow, and *dolor*, pain, distress?—See also **SOLLAKER**.

But when once he had extricated himself from the *mêlée*, and had rapped on the door-frame with his ruler, crying 'Books, books!' the boy who a minute before had enjoyed

the luxury of giving the master what was known in school-boy lingo as a *sockdologer*, delivered full in the back, or even on the side of the head, did not find any encouragement to presume on that experience in school hours.—*Century Magazine*, 1887.

—(2) A fishing-hook which closes with a spring after the fish has swallowed it.

**SOCIABLE.**—A New England term for a party; a gathering of friends.

**SOCK, To.**—This English provincialism, signifying to strike a hard blow, is used in several connections, all of which, however, approach more or less nearly to the given meaning. Thus in a strike, where one section of the strikers gives way and returns to work, whilst the rest still hold out, those who have given in are said to *sock* it to the others. On the other hand, an argument may be *socked* or driven in to the hilt, *i.e.*, stated conclusively; while in yet another sense it means to charge a high price for any article; or, in a narration, to exaggerate, or "pile on the agony"—in fact, it is generally used to emphasize an opinion or action.

A rich man won't have anything but your very best [coffins]; and you can just pile it on too, and sock it in to him—he won't ever holler.—*Mark Twain's Life on the Mississippi*.

**SODA PRAIRIE.**—A vast arid plain covered with a deposit of natron or soda. These desolate tracks of country are frequent in New Mexico, Texas, and Arizona.

**SOFT.**—**SOFT BACK.**—A tortoise, large in size and of considerable ferocity; known to science as the *Trionyx ferox*.—**SOFT COAL.**—Bituminous coal.—*See* **HARD COAL.**—**SOFT CORN.**—An alternative of soft-soap; *soft-sawder*; *i.e.*, flattery.—**SOFT CRAB.**—The crab, otherwise known as the **SHEDDER**, and so

named when shedding its outer shell.—**SOFTLINESS.**—An action is done with *softliness* when quietly accomplished; without pretence; unassumingly.—**SOFT MONEY.**—Paper money was so called during the contest in 1876 for the resumption of specie payment.—*See* **HARD MONEY.**—**SOFT SAWDER.**—Overt and perceptible flattery. This term was probably introduced by Sam Slick. Also to **SOFT SAWDER.**—**SOFT SHELLS.**—An appellation applied politically to the less conservative of the Democrats and also to the Baptists. The hard-shell and *soft-shell* Baptists are two sections of the *Baptist* community, so named according to the light in which they regard certain worldly usages. The hard-shell is stern and uncompromising in his denunciation of pleasure, even of the most innocent kind, while the *soft-shell* is more lenient in his views of men and things. Perhaps a more graphic description of what a hard-shell is not could hardly be given than the following from the *Arkansas Traveler*, which, as Artemus would say, is "wrote sarcastic":—

One cold and rainy day, while returning home from a new mill that had been started about fifteen miles from my house, I stopped at an old cabin to get warm. An old man and a boy sat by the fire.

'I would like to get warm,' said I.

'Help yourself,' said he.

I sat down and held my wet hands over the blaze.

'Travelin'?' he asked.

'Sorter,' I replied.

'What church do you run with?' he asked.

'Well,' I replied, 'my range is rather uncertain at present, but I have run with most all of them.'

'Ever jog along with the hard-shells.'

'No.'

'That's the church,' said he.

'Wish you could prove it,' I replied.

'I ken,' said he. 'Bill, addressing his son, 'retch back thar in that pile of shucks an' haul out the jug.'

Bill rattled the shucks and brought out the jug.



'Pull,' said the hard-shell handing me the jug.  
I pulled.

'Pull agin,'  
I pulled again, and then said, 'Mr. hard-shell I reckon you are right.'

It beat any lickier I ever tasted, and I have sense found out that if you want to get the best go among the hard-shells. There is no fighting among them; no quarreling; nothing but brown jean pants, brotherly love, hickory shirts and lickier that'll wreathe the sourest face with smiles. Yes, after years of contest and struggle, I had found the coat that fit me and I have been wearing it ever since, and that's why I am a hard-shell.

—The terms, hard-shell and *soft-shell* are now generally used to signify a hard and fast, or literal interpretation of any subject or question upon which men differ.

—SOFT-SHELL CRAB.—See SOFT CRAB.—SOFT SOAP.—Flattery; ironical praise; the same as SOFT-SAWDER. — SOFT-THING. — A stroke of luck.—SOFT SNAP.—See SNAP. — SOFT WOODLANDS.—In British North America, pine forests.

**SOG.**—A lethargy.

**SOLEMNCHOLY.**—A facetious variant of melancholy.

You have seen the great wiseacre, SOLEMNCHOLY as a Quaker, who will talk in all the seasons, winter, summer, spring or fall;

He will talk without cessation, 'bout all things since the creation, so that you will see quite plainly, he's the man who knows it all.

—*Detroit Free Press*, 1883.

**SOLID.**—This adjective is much used to denote thoroughness; complete agreement with. Electors get *solid* with a candidate when they plump in voting for him. Likewise a man would be said to have got *solid* with a woman when he had specially ingratiated himself into favor.

The convention would afford him splendid opportunity to get *SOLID* with the politicians of the State, and to renew and strengthen

the *entente cordiale* established during the visit of President Cleveland. — *Missouri Republican*, February 24, 1888.

During the call, Mr. Tarpie, in a brief speech, withdrew San Francisco from the contest. The voting then proceeded almost *SOLIDLY* for St. Louis, when a motion was made and carried declaring St. Louis to be the unanimous choice of the committee.—*Ibid.*

'If that fellow has any grit in him,' said Nat, 'I'll make him *SOLID* with that girl. With this he took me by the arm, and hurried along and overtook the couple. In passing them Nat gave the young chap a push, and, looking squarely at him, said: 'What are you going to do about it?' The young man spurred right up to Nat and was going to thrash him, when Nat pulled me by the arm, and we both turned and ran. There,' said Nat, 'won't that make him *SOLID* with his girl? She thinks he frightened away a couple of big bullies who were just going to eat them both up.'—*Chicago Times*, 1888.

—**SOLID MEN.**—Men of responsibility and standing in the community.—**SOLID SOUTH.**—The unbroken political bond of the Southern States; and latterly the united white vote (Democratic) as opposed to the *solid* Republican vote of the negroes. The phrase has been traced back only to the Reconstruction period succeeding the Civil War (*circa*, 1868). It is alleged, however, that it was in use prior to the war.

**SOLLAKEE.**—A variant of SOCDOLAGER (*q.v.*), a heavy blow.

A professor in a California college was stricken with lockjaw during a Latin recitation some three weeks ago, and has not been able to speak since. He was teaching the continental pronunciation, and had just told the class that Youlius Kaiser said, 'Wany, weedy, weedy,' when the shock came, and it is quite generally believed that the outraged spirit of the libelled old Roman landed his traducer a *SOLLAKEE* in his jaw with his mailed hand.—*Burdette*, 1888.

**SOLLOKADOWSER.**—See preceding.

'What did you hook, Davey?' inquired Phil, looking as sober as possible. 'What wuz it?' replied he somewhat indignantly, 'none uv yer skippin' runts, sur, as play wid

feathers un floies at the top uv the wathur, but a reg'lar sollokadowser from the bottom. I knows where t' find 'em,' with a shake of the head.—*Forest and Stream*, March 15, 1888.

**SOLOMONESQUE.**—With the appearance of wisdom; after the manner of Solomon.

Here are a few appropriate mottoes it will be well for you never to overlook, and you can quote them in a SOLOMONESQUE manner to your friends:—

For opticians—Mind your eye.

For old maids—Marry come up.

For hairdressers—Two heads are better than one.—*American Humorist*, August 11, 1888.

**SO LONG!**—Good-bye! an English provincialism, commonly colloquial in Louisiana.

**SOMBRERO.**—A broad-brimmed hat. From the Spanish.

**SOME.**—Used in several slang senses, the most popular of which is as an equivalent to somewhat, something. This practice is *mutatis mutandis*, similar to that which obtains in the case of ANY (*q.v.*).

Of course the storm hurt us **SOME**, how much I can't say, but I should imagine that we had lost fully three days' trade by it.—*New York Herald*, March 25, 1888.

—**Some** is also employed as meaning considerable; very much; notable; famous.

'Ain't Theron Gusher a married man?' [inquired Josiah Allen's wife of Miss Betsy Bobbet].

'Oh, yes, **SOME**.'

'**SOME!**' I repeated in a cold accent. 'He is either married, or he hain't married, one or the other;' and again I repeated coldly, 'Is he a married man, Betsy?'

'Oh, yes, he has been a married man a few times, or what the cold world calls marrying,—he has got a wife now; but I do not believe he has found his affinity yet, though he has got several bills of divorcement from various wimmen, trying to find her.'—*Betsy Bobbet*, p. 190.

— **SOME PUMPKINS.**— *See* PUMPKIN.

**SONSY.**—Bright; bonny.

The girls (American) are, for the most part, pale, dull-eyed, and weary-looking. They are flat-breasted and round-shouldered. Here and there a blooming, rosy, sonsy girl makes the prevailing pallor and languor only more noticeable. In view of this assemblage, need we ask whether the vigor of our children is really sacrificed in education?—*The Epoch*, 1888.

**SOON.**—A Southern equivalent of early; thus *soon* in the afternoon, *soon* in the evening.

**SOPH, SOPHOMORE.**—Professor Goodrich thus explains the meaning of these terms in Webster's *Unabridged*.

This word has generally been considered an American barbarism, but it was probably introduced into our country at a very early period from the University of Cambridge, England. Among the cant terms at that University, as given in the *Gradus ad Cantabrigiam*, we find **SOPH-MOR** as the next distinctive appellation to Freshman. It is added that a writer in the *Gentleman's Magazine* thinks **MOR** an abbreviation of the Greek *μωρία*, introduced at a time when the 'Encomium Moriae,' the 'Praise of Folly,' by Erasmus, was so generally used. The ordinary derivation of the word, from *σοφός* and *μωρός* would seem, therefore, to be incorrect. The young **SOPHS** at Cambridge appear formerly to have received the adjunct *mor, μωρός* to their names, either as one they courted for the reason mentioned above, or as one given them in sport for the supposed exhibition of inflated feeling in entering upon their new honors. The term thus implied seems to have passed at a very early period from Cambridge in England to Cambridge in America, as the next distinctive appellation to Freshmen, and thus to have been attached to the second of the four classes in our American colleges, while it has now almost ceased to be known, even as a cant word, at the parent institution in England from whence it came.

The trouble between the Freshman and **SOPHOMORE** classes of Cornell University has burst out afresh, and the first act of warfare was the kidnapping and abduction of the Freshmen's president by a big body of **SOPHOMORES** late last night.—*Philadelphia Press*, January 29, 1888.

**SORA. SORÉE** (*Rallus carolinus*).—The rail of the South, much esteemed for its plumpness and flavor.

**SORREL-TREE** (*Andromeda arborea*).—Otherwise called the SOUR-WOOD from the acidity of its sap.

**SOSSLE. SOZZLE.**—(1) In Connecticut, to splash.—(2) To lounge. This latter is from the Old English "soss."

**SOT.**—For set, *e.g.*, "the vittles are sot out." This corrupt pronunciation is very common throughout the Union, and even where the speaker knows better it is used in a half-jocose manner in place of the more orthodox form. It also appears, when "set" in the sense of "to set store by" is meant. "Sat," too, is subjected to the same indignity.

Caller (to old Mrs. Bently).—The new minister is making himself quite popular, is he not, Mrs. Bently?

Old Mrs. Bently.—Well, I ain't much sot by him. For the last three Sundays he's prayed for rain, an' there ain't a drop fell yit! —*Fuck*, 1888.

The musicianers sot right down in front of the stage, and they was led by a handsome young man, whose head went from one side to the other like happy people at a camp meetin'.—*New York Spirit of the Times*.

—**SOT S.**—In Virginia and Pennsylvania yeast is so-called.

**SOT-WEED.**—A former term for tobacco in Maryland.

**SOUND ON THE GOOSE.**—See GOOSE.

**SOUR.**—TO BE SOUR ON.—The love of sweet things on the part of Americans is a well-known characteristic, and this predilection is responsible for an idiom the antithesis of that used when a love-sick swain is said to be sweet on some fair Dulcinea. Also employed idiomatically of any unpleasant task or occupa-

tion, which, when tired of, a man is said to be *soured on*.—**SOUR GUM.**—See GUM.—**SOUR SOP.**—A West Indian fruit known to science as *Anona muricata*.—**SOUR WOOD.**—See **SORREL TREE**.

**SOUTH.**—One of the two great divisions into which, colloquially, the States were divided previous to the Civil War. At that time the South was synonymous with the pro-slavery cause, in contradistinction to the North, which represented the Abolitionist party. So ingrained was slavery in the institutions of the South that only after nearly a quarter of a century has it been possible to organize a New SOUTH (*q.v.*), whose aspirations are in accord with the general body politic. Hence all such terms as SOUTHERNISM, SOUTHERNWISE, SOUTHRON, or SOUTHERNER have now lost their once distinctively unique meaning. — **SOUTHERN STATES.**—Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia.

**SOVEREIGN.**—The Americans modestly style themselves the *sovereign* people, at least Bartlett, defining the word *sovereign*, explains it as meaning one of the people of the United States—a voter.

—**SOVEREIGNS OF INDUSTRY.**—An organization of the laboring classes, who by co-operation seek to obtain a more equal division of the fruits of labor than is possible when a middleman stands between a capitalist and the real producers of wealth. — **PLAYING THE SOVEREIGN.**—In Pennsylvania when a candidate for office puts on shabby clothes a short time before an election, drinks whiskey with everybody, and shakes hands with everybody, he is said to be *playing the sovereign*.



**SPAN.**—This word, derived from the Dutch, is used, says Webster, to denote two horses of nearly the same color, and otherwise nearly alike, usually harnessed side by side. The word signifies properly the same as "yoke" when applied to horned cattle, from buckling or fastening together. But, in America, *span* always implies resemblance in color at least; it being an object of ambition with gentlemen and teamsters to unite two horses abreast that are alike.

Joseph Stiger, of Jackson township, sold recently to J. Dittmore, a *SPAN* of two-year-old horse colts, weighing 1,260 pounds each, sired by Rob Roy.—*Maryville Democrat*, 1888.

—So also to *SPAN*, in New England somewhat similarly used for to agree in color, or in color and size.

**SPANCEL, TO.**—To hobble an animal by its hind legs to prevent it kicking. A crab is also *spancelled* by being allowed to feed off its own legs, *i.e.*, one of the latter is stuck into each of the movable claws.

**SPANISH BAYONET.**—A popular name in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, for a variety of *Yucca*, from its stiff, sharp pointed leaves.

**SPARK, TO.**—To court. A New England term, as also is *SPARKING*, probably in allusion to the spick and span appearance of a lover under such circumstances. *Cf.*, Icelandic *sprakhi*, a coxcomb; Danish *sprader*.

**SPAT.**—From the use of this word for a slap or blow, has come its colloquial usage for a petty quarrel, *e.g.*, between lovers, etc.

'Did you quarrel with your wife?' asked a juror.

'Oh, we had some words now and then, but every couple have their *SPATS*. That ought not to make her want to die.'

'Did you have any trouble recently?'

'I may have talked a little straight, that's all.'—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, March 7, 1888.

There was a pretty lively *SPAT* in the House to-day between Messrs. Bland and Heard of Missouri, and the arguments finally got to be decidedly personal; but after the whole thing was over each gentleman agreed to withdraw what had been said, and the breeze blew over, leaving these too well-known Missourians as good friends as they have ever been.—*Missouri Republican*, 1888.

—So also to *SPAT*.

**SPECK AND APPLEJEES.**—*See* *APPLE-GEES* under *APPLE*.

**SPELLING BEE.**—A well-known form of amusement, which consists of a competition in spelling. Originating in the Western States of America, it rapidly spread through the Union, crossed the Atlantic to England, running its course like wild-fire from John-o'-Groats to Land's End.—*See* *BEE*.

**SPICE BERRY.**—A variety of *HACK-BERRY* (*q.v.*).—**SPICE BUSH.**—*See* *FEVER BUSH*.—**SPICE TEA.**—A beverage made from the leaves of the spice bush, and valuable as a febrifuge.

**SPIDER.**—A frying pan standing on three long legs, whence its name.

Sometimes the negro owns a *SPIDER*, and generally a coffee-pot and mill, which as before have been broken to use in the buckra's house.—*Atlantic Monthly*.

**SPIKE.**—A casual ward.—**To SPIKE.**—To go to or frequent the same.—**SPIKE TEAM.**—A team of three horses so arranged that two are preceded by the third.

**SPINDLE CITY.**—Lowell in Massachusetts, a centre of the cotton-spinning industry.

**SPIRITUALISM.**—A belief and practice, the fundamental principle of which is, that the existence of man after death is palpably demonstrated (and that beyond the shadow of a doubt) by certain abnormal phenomena, which, though observed and noted from time to time in the past, have never till within the last few years been scientifically examined or recognized as affording phenomenal evidences of a life to come.

—Hence **SPIRITIST** or **SPIRITUALIST.**—A believer in the doctrines of Spiritualism.—*See* also in connection with this subject, **CIRCLE**, **FOX GIRLS**, and **MEDIUM.**—**SPIRITUAL WIFE.**—A Mormon term for all wives other than the first one. These concubines are also called **SEALED ONES**, whilst the jocosely inclined call them **FIXIN'S**.

**SPIT CURL.**—*See* under **SOAP LOCK**.

**SPLICE.**—NOT BY A LONG SPLICE.—Something short; deficient. First used in Pennsylvania.

**SPLIT-TICKET.**—*See* **TICKET**.

**SPLORUM.**—Much ado about nothing; much cry and little wool; or in the Yankee dialect, "All talk and no cider."

**SPLOSH.**—A New England variant of splash.

**SPLOTCHED.**—Blurred; spotted; probably a corruption of "blotched."

Within an hour we were fairly within the Straits of Gibraltar, the tall, yellow **SPLOTCHED** hills of Africa on our right, with their bases veiled in a blue haze and their summits swathed in clouds—the same being according to Scripture, which says that

clouds and darkness are over the land. The words were spoken of this particular portion of Africa, I believe.—*Mark Twain's Innocents Abroad.*

**SPLURGE.**—**TO SPLURGE.** TO CUT OR MAKE A SPLURGE.—To indulge in noisy demonstration; to swagger pompously; "to cut a dash."

The word **SPLURGE** is indeed an instance of our own cis-atlantic coinage, a provincialism probably not yet in any dictionary; yet meaning as if a great rock of the mountain, disintegrated from its summit, should rush and bound, portentous and avalanched, into a silver lake at its foot, there making an uproarious splash, boring its momentous way through the parted and the frightened waves, and after dashing the spray in all directions burying itself, in forgotten repose, under congenial mud at the bottom; so gone for ever from sight, from thought, from upper air, and all the ways of men; thus meaning,—the low aim of making a considerable sensation at least once in society.—*T. H. Cox.*

Two years passed and a man came out in society with a grand **SPLURGE**. Arnold Fitz Warren he called his name. He carried things with a high hand and cut a wide swath.—*Boston Weekly Globe*, March 28, 1888.

Secretary Lamar was nothing of an entertainer and he had neither the money nor the inclination to make a social **SPLURGE**.—*Denver Republican*, April 15, 1888.

**SPOILS.**—"To the victor belong the spoils" is apparently the watchword of most American politicians. It was first used by William S. Marcy, of New York, in the U. S. Senate in 1832. It is customary on each change of president, for the whole army of office-holders to depart, if in peace, probably in sorrow. This system is, without doubt, the secret of the deterioration in American politics, which even Americans themselves regretfully admit. The changing of Government officials every four years is in the first place hardly calculated to ensure efficiency of service, and in the second it opens up, not only vistas, but "howling avenues" of corruption. "The time is short, let us eat, drink, and

be merry, for to-morrow we die."  
—See DECAPITATE.

**SPONDULICS.**—Clever in making money, Brother Jonathan is equally expert in coining strange names to designate it. Of these *spondulics* is one; for others see under CHARM.

**SPOOK.**—From the German *spuck*, signifying a spirit or ghost: *spook* is far more colloquial than the latter terms.

At the first glance of this apparition I unconsciously held my breath in a kind of expectant suspense. The next moment a gleam of recognition flashed upon me—the whole mystery of the haunted spook was explained.—*Detroit Free Press*, September 29, 1888.

**SPOON.**—TO DO BUSINESS WITH A BIG SPOON.—To cut a dash; or, as in the billiard slang of England, "to put on side."

**SPOOPS, SPOOPSY.**—New Englandisms for a weak-minded fellow; a nincompoop.

**SPOSH.**—What, applied to half-melted snow and mud, is called in England slush.

**SPOT.**—TO BREAK OUT IN A NEW SPOT.—A slang expression for commencing anew, or turning one's attention to a fresh undertaking.  
—IN SPOTS.—A curious Western phrase graphically suggestive of incompleteness; by fits and starts. When a man says he sleeps *in spots*, he does not mean that he is ubiquitous, and were the listener to suggest in even the most Parliamentary language that he was lying, there certainly would be *spots* in him. It is all a matter of words; *in spots* here means at intervals or by snatches. — SPOTTERS.—Detectives.

The royalty paid for use of gong-punches, and the money used in maintaining SPOTTERS, would be quite adequate to supply the means for rewarding the fidelity of the servant.—*Providence Press*.

**SPREAD-EAGLEISM.**—The American equivalent of British bunkum, and *La Gloire* of the French. The national emblem of the United States is an eagle with wings outstretched, hence the application of the epithet *spread-eagleism* to vain-glorious laudation of American institutions, as compared with those of other countries. The *Northern American Review* once defined it thus:—

A compound of exaggeration, effrontery, bombast, and extravagance, mixed metaphors, platitudes, defiant threats thrown at the world, and irreverent appeals flung at the Supreme Being.

Sometimes in the night the town dogs hold ratification meetings in our back yard, and make long, rambling remarks to the moon. There is a good deal of SPREAD-EAGLEISM and talk for political effect only at a night dog convention. There is too much repetition and tautology in their remarks.—*Texas Siftings*, October 27, 1888.

**SPREAD ONESELF, TO.**—To make ostentatious show of oneself; to put on airs.

**SPRING-BAG, TO.**—A New England farmer's term used of the filling udders of cows when about to calve.

**SPROUTS.**—A bunch of twigs.—TO PUT ONE THROUGH A COURSE OF SPROUTS.—To thrash; to castigate.

**SPUNG (Cant).**—A miser.

**SPUNK.**—The Old English usage conveyed the idea of spirit; fire; mettle; and courage—a synonym of all that was manly. Latterly, however, the word has, in England, come to be regarded as extremely vulgar,



probably from an esoteric slang meaning, in which it is associated with an essential characteristic of virility. The original meaning is still current in Scotland, and is also colloquial in America.—To SPUNK UP.—To show pluck and spirit.—SPUNKY.—Spirited; vivacious.

And there has been days together—and many a weary week—  
We were both of us cross and SPUNKY, and both too proud to speak;  
And I have been thinkin' and thinkin', the whole of the winter and fall,  
If I can't live kind with a woman, why, then, I won't at all.

—*Will Carleton's Farm Ballads.*

Well, I glory in her SPUNK, but it's monstrous expensive and unpleasant to do things on the big figure that she's on now.—*Major Jones's Courtship.*

**SQUAIL** (Cant).—A drink.

**SQUALE**.—A New England term, denoting the throwing of an object, so that it skims along the ground. Applied to water it is synonymous with the "making ducks and drakes" of English boys. This is a survival of *squoil*, an Old English term for a very similar action.

**SQUANTUM**.—(1) Among some Indian tribes a name for an evil spirit.—(2) A free and easy jollification, in which everyone says and does as he pleases without restraint.

I wish to all-fired smash I was to home, doin' chores about house, or hazin' round with Charity Bunker and the rest o' the gals at a SQUANTUM.—*Wise Tales for the Marines.*

**SQUARE**.—The use of *square* in the sense of upright, fair, unqualified, etc., dates back for several hundred years. It was thought, however, that a few of its applications might rightly be classed as American, but research has shown that even the most notable of these exceptions—a *square meal*—was sailing

under false colors. This, like many another so-called Americanism, is good Old English; for *square*, meaning to leave nothing, hearty, vigorous, occurs in an old play.

By heavens SQUARE eaters,  
More meat I say.

—*Beaumont and Fletcher's Tragedy of Bonдина, II. iii.*

**SQUASH**.—(1) A vegetable of the gourd kind, similar to vegetable marrow. It is derived from an Indian word, *asquash*, signifying green.—(2) The skunk.—**SQUASH BUG** (*Coreus tristis*).—A small yellow insect pest infesting vines, squashes, melons, and cucumbers, and which in Connecticut is called a stink-bug.

**SQUAT, To**.—To settle upon land without possessing a title.—**SQUATTER**.—One who so settles on land.—**SQUATTER SOVEREIGNTY**.—A political term, signifying the claim made by settlers within the Union, to pass laws for their own government without reference to the common-weal. This question has cropped up again and again in various guises.

Ever since the adoption of the federal constitution it had menaced the national life, now on this pretext and now on that. The embargo of 1807, the tariff of 1832, and finally the question of slavery extension in 1854-5, each in turn gave occasion for threats of dis-union, and the alleged right of secession was involved in them all. Again and again its fallacies and dangers were exposed by the ablest statesmen. Again and again it was evaded by compromises which everybody agreed were to settle it for ever—in 1820 by the Missouri compromise, in 1833 by a new tariff, in 1850 by the admission of California, a new fugitive slave law, and the other measures of that day. But only a few years later the Kansas-Nebraska controversy, the Dred-Scott decision by the supreme court, and the new doctrine of **SQUATTER SOVEREIGNTY**, showed that it was as far from being settled as ever. The question of slavery had assumed a form which, as we now see, left no alternative but war. That war was fought out—and another of its

results was the complete abandonment of the pretended right of secession and of the doctrine of state sovereignty, so far as it implies any denial of the absolute supremacy of the national government within its proper sphere. This also is a matter of history and common knowledge, as truly as the expulsion of the house of Stuart from the British throne.—*Missouri Republican*, April 8, 1888.

— SQUATTER STATE. — Kansas, from its being the battle-ground of one of the severest fights in connection with the doctrine of squatter sovereignty.—Also called GARDEN STATE.

**SQUAW.**—An Indian woman. Authorities differ as to whether this term is of Indian origin. Du Ponceau, in *Les Langues d'Amerique du Nord*, gives a list of the languages and forms in which the word occurs, but it an open question as to whether it is a *bonâ fide* root word; *sequa* or *esqua* is the termination of words implying the female gender, and so has probably become the customary English word for the Indian woman.—**SQUAW MEN.**—Men, alien to a tribe, who, by marriage with Indian women, obtain a certain standing amongst the red-skins.

This is the name given by Indians to those men, not of their tribe, who, by purchase of squaws (marriage), have been adopted by or are tolerated in it. They are of two classes. First, men of some means and frequently of ability, who come among the Indians as traders, and who, as a means of gaining their confidence and obtaining their trade, take to their bosoms a wife from each tribe, sometimes from almost each band. These men frequently become very wealthy and gain great influence among the Indians, and their red wives (being only property) are no impediment to their having wives and families in the States. As they grow old they sometimes retire from business, return to the States, and not unfrequently are respected and influential members of society. Others pass the winter of their days in their Western homes, surrounded in patriarchal style by a crowd of admiring offspring and dependents. Secondly, living with every Indian tribe is a number of outcasts, American, French, Mexican, the lowest refuse, who, spewed out

by the society in which they were born, find congenial refuge among these savages. This life is not always a matter of choice, but is sometimes forced upon them by a too eager inquiry after their persons by the myrmidons of the law. Not unfrequently they are accompanied on their arrival among the Indians by a number of horses of various brands, sufficient not only to make friends of some of the principal men, but to buy one or more squaws and a tepee, and enable them to set up housekeeping. These men become part of the tribe thus adopting or tolerating them, and, when near the agencies, send their squaws to draw rations for themselves and their children. Having more natural shrewdness than the Indian, and a knowledge of the mode of life and habits of thought of the white man, they soon gain a certain ascendancy over their red brethren. Being able to go among the white settlements without suspicion, they are accused of acting as spies for the Indians, of informing them where a valuable lot of horses or mules is to be had for the taking, and even of wreaking personal vengeance by inciting the Indians to some act of atrocity. There is scarcely a crime of which they are not accused, and I doubt if there be a crime of which some of them are not capable. These are the men who trade clandestinely with the Indians. These furnish the arms; these supply the whiskey; these are the ready tools of corrupt agents, making affidavits to cover any loss, and swearing to any story that is made up for them. At his own best games, in lying, stealing, drinking, and debauchery, the SQUAW MAN is so far superior to the Indian as to gain his unqualified admiration, and he becomes a power among them by the display of qualities similar, but superior to those held in highest estimation by them. It is from these men that the Indians get their ideas of the character, capacity, morality, and religion of white men. The Mexicans have a proverb that a woman is the best dictionary. The SQUAW MEN prove its correctness by soon becoming adepts in the language of the Indians. All the intercourse between the Government and the Indian is filtered through these men and partakes of their character, being full of duplicity, treachery, and evasion. In all the length and breadth of the plains there is not an interpreter that can be relied on; and no treaty or delicate mission should ever be undertaken without several interpreters, who, moreover, should be required to give each his interpretation out of hearing of the others. There are in the United States about 100 Indian reservations and agencies, at each of which there is an average of about ten of these SQUAW MEN. The effect on the Indian of a thousand of such missionaries as these miserable outcasts may be imagined. A thousand ruffians with their half-bred children are fed and fostered by the Government. They are an

injury to the country, a detriment to the Indian, and should be abolished.—*Dodge*.

—**SQUAW ROOT** (*Conapholis americana*).—Called also **CANCER ROOT** (*q.v.*). A medicinal plant; as also is **SQUAW WEED** (*Senecio aureus*).

**SQUAWK, To.**—A deep-toned squeak. Provincial in England, but colloquial in the States.

The perfection of taxation consists in so plucking the goose, *i.e.*—the people—as to procure the greatest amount of feathers with the least possible amount of **SQUAWKING**.—*Popular Science Monthly*, January, 1888.

**SQUEAL, To.**—To inform against; to betray; to give information to the police.

The first step of a prosecuting attorney, in attacking a criminal conspiracy, is to spread abroad the rumor that this, that, or the other confederate is about to **SQUEAL**; he knows that it will be but a few days before one or more of the rogues will hurry to his office to anticipate the traitors by turning State's evidence.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

Two years ago, John Lightfoot was arrested for stealing meat from Mason Murphy. He escaped, and was not re-arrested until today, when Officer Pegg captured him in Westmoreland county. He will **SQUEAL** on two Confederates.—*Pittsburg Times*, Feb. 25, 1888.

**SQUEEZERS.**—Playing cards, more generally known in England as *American squeezers*. Their peculiarities are, rounded corners, a smaller and handier size, with the suit and value marked in the right-hand corner.

The editor picked up his hand, slid the **SQUEEZERS** past his good eye, and began to softly whisper the Pirate King.—*American Humorist*, September 15, 1888.

**SQUELCH, To.**—To crush. Once quite common in England, but now nearly obsolete, its place having been taken colloquially by *squash*. It still, however, passes universally current in America.

She felt they were all making fun of her; but she gloried in thinking how they would be **SQUELCHED** when they confronted her first-night of howling swells, and knew they had the honor of playing with that famous woman, Dora Dexter.—*San Francisco News Letter*, 1888.

**SQUETEAGUE.**—Explained by quotation.

The **SQUETEAGUE** is taken both by lining and seining, and because it makes such feeble exertion and resistance in being drawn in by a hook, it has received the appellation of weak fish.—*Fishes of Massachusetts*.

**SQUIGGLE, To.**—A New England equivalent of to writhe; to squirm; and, idiomatically applied to a shifty, unreliable man or action, the former being said to *squiggle* (like an eel) when attempting to evade responsibility.

**SQUINNY, To.**—To guffaw; to laugh broadly. A New Englandism.

**SQUIRE.**—This, in England, is a title customarily given to a man of property, living on his own estate. The New England usage is to apply it to judges and justices of the peace; while, in Pennsylvania, it is applied to justices of the peace only.

**SQUIRM, To.**—This expressive verb, signifying to writhe or wriggle like an eel, which of late years has been revived in England, has always been in popular use in America. It is a good Old English word which Grose, in 1825, reported obsolete.

As soon as he stepped out of the dock, he cried out in a loud voice, 'I am not ready to go to trial, and I won't!' He was ordered to keep quiet, but instead of obeying the mandate he **SQUIRMED** around like a wild man and repeated his determination not to go to trial.—*Missouri Republican*, Feb. 16, 1888.

—So also **SQUIRMY**.



**SQUIRT.**—A fop; a dandy. —  
**SQUIRTISH.**—Dandified.

**SQUITTERS.**—A term for diarrhoea, which is provincial in some parts of England.

**SQUASH, To.**—To crush; to squeeze. Generally said of things soft to the touch.

**STABBIST.**—A new form, with nothing to recommend it. Cf. FRUITIST.

**SADDLE.**—This, like many other Americanisms, is an old friend with a new face, the Old English term having been applied to the bottom of a haystack, and in this sense it is given to the stakes upon which hayricks are set in the Eastern States. It is also, however, the name for a young tree or sapling.

**STAG.**—(1) Said by Bartlett to be a technical name, in the New York law courts, for a man who is always ready to aid in proving an *alibi*, of course for a consideration.

—(2) A bullock. In this, New Englanders follow the provincial usage of England. —**STAG-DANCE.**—A dance performed by men only. —**STAG-PARTY.**—A party comprised wholly of the male sex.

**STAIT (Cant).**—New York City.

**STAKE, To.**—Various idiomatic phrases centre round this word. One of the first operations of a new settler is to *stake* or mark out the limits of his holding. Hence to **STICK ONE'S STAKES** is to take up a position; to **PULL UP ONE'S STAKES** is, on the contrary, to abandon it; while to **MOVE ONE'S STAKES** signifies, let us hope in every case, the enlargement of one's borders. —**To STAKE OUT.**

—**To picket or TO LARIAT (g.v.).**

—**STAKY.**—A *staky* horse is one that jibs. —**STAKE AND RIDER.**—A kind of high fence. —**STAKE DRIVER.**—In the Adirondacks, the **BITTERN** is so called. —**STAKE ROPE.**—A lasso or lariat.

**STALL, To.**—A word which, provincial in England, is thoroughly colloquial in the Union, in the sense of to stick fast in mire or snow. To **SET** is the New England equivalent.

Many trains are **STALLED** between stations on the Hudson River and Harlem Roads. The officials said yesterday that forty trains were snowed in.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, March 14, 1888.

**STALWARTS.**—A certain section of the Republican party, who hold the doctrine that "the king can do no wrong," *i.e.*, their party; and who stick to it through thick and thin. The term acquired its special significance among Republicans under Roscoe Conkling's leadership in 1878-9.

The **STALWARTS** have made no indictment against Judge Gresham. They know it is untrue. The charge has not even a shadow of truth to rest upon. It is a shameful and unjust charge. Judge Gresham has voted the straight Republican Presidential ticket every year but 1864.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, March 26, 1888.

**STAMPING GROUND.**—A curious term in use in the South and West to signify a favorite place of resort; similarly, the scene of one's exploits.

**STAMPS.**—A slang term for paper money.

**STAND.**—(1) Among sugar planters, growing canes are spoken of as a *stand* of canes. In this connection see **RATOONS.**—(2) A locality or situation; thus, "The Grand" at Charing Cross may be said to

be a capital *stand* for an hotel.  
 —STANDEE.—Standing room, as, *e.g.*, at a theatre, etc.—  
 To STAND OFF.—To hold at a distance. As, *e.g.*, to *stand off* Indians with one's rifle. From this belligerent meaning comes to *stand off* one's creditors, duns, etc.—  
 To STAND UP TO THE RACK.—To make due appearance; to be ready; "to come up to the scratch."

STAR.—STAR-ROUTES.—In the United States *Postal Guide*, certain non-remunerative routes are designated by an asterisk. Grave scandals arose in connection with these Star-routes from 1876 to 1884.—STARS.—Superintendents of police in New York city; these officers are required by law to wear a brass badge on the breast in the shape of a *star*.—STARS AND BARS.—A familiar name applied to the flag of the Confederate States.

Up with the stripes and stars, and down  
 with STARS AND BARS,  
 Let the cry of the Eagle still be Union,  
 Hail Columbia, Yankee Doodle, God bless  
 the whole caboodle.

—Christy's Songster.

—STARS AND STRIPES.—The flag of the United States, Congress having resolved on the 14th of June, 1777, that the flag of the thirteen United Colonies should be thirteen stripes, alternately red and white, together with thirteen white stars on a blue ground. Formerly, a new stripe was added for each new State admitted to the Union, until the flag became too large, when, by act of Congress, the stripes were reduced to the old thirteen; and now only another star is added at the accession of each new State. It is held by most authorities that General Washington's escutcheon,

which contained three bars and three five-pointed stars like those on the American flag, suggested the National Standard. Other flags had previously been in use, an interesting account of which appeared in *Notes and Queries* in 1852.

In March, 1775, a Union flag with a red field was hoisted at New York, bearing the inscription, 'George Rex and the Liberties of America,' and upon the reverse, 'No Popery.' On the 18th July, 1778, General Putnam raised at Prospect Hill a flag, bearing on one side the Connecticut motto, *Qui transtulit sustinet*, on the other, 'An Appeal to Heaven.' In October of the same year, the floating batteries at Boston had a flag with the latter motto, the field white with a pine tree upon it. This was the Massachusetts emblem. Another flag, used during 1775 in some of the Colonies, had upon it a rattlesnake coiled as if about to strike, with the motto, 'Don't tread on me.' The grand Union flag of thirteen STRIPES was raised on the heights near Boston, January 2, 1776. The *British Annual Calendar* of 1776 says:—They burnt the King's speech, and changed their colors from the red ground, which they had hitherto used, to a flag of thirteen STRIPES, as a symbol of the number and union of the colonies. This idea of making a STRIPE for each State was adopted from the first; and the fact goes far to negative the supposition that the private arms of General Washington had anything to do with it. The pine-tree, the rattle-snake, and the striped flag were used indiscriminately until July, 1777, when the blue Union with the STARS was added to the STRIPES, and the flag established by law.

—STAR SPANGLED BANNER.—A familiar name for the flag of the United States, in allusion to its stars, white in a blue field, representing, said the Act of Congress which adopted it, "a new constellation."

The majority of Americans, if asked who wrote the 'STAR SPANGLED BANNER,' would reply, Francis Scott Key, meaning that the melody was his composition. As a matter of fact, the melody was an old convivial song, familiar in England and America before Key was born. Key wrote the stirring words under circumstances that might have made a man of meaner talents a poet.—*Philadelphia Public Ledger*, March 7, 1888.

**STARCH.**—To TAKE THE STARCH OUT OF ONE.—To humble; to snub; to take down a peg. Western Americans dislike "style" and stiffness of bearing as much as nature abhors a vacuum. Unfortunately, however, the means they adopt to take the starch out of one usually results in excessive limpness. A new-comer does well not to put on, as it is termed, "a yard too much style."

**START OUT, TO.**—A Western colloquialism for to start; to send off; to dispatch.

And so the lengthening winter days went by. They were long, bright, busy days to him, out in the odorless pine forest, swinging his axe, driving his team, and STARTING OUT cord after cord of wood.—*Portland Transcript*, 1888.

**STATE.**—A large district of country having a separate government, but confederated with other States, as one of the members or States of the American Union.—*Worcester.*

**STATEHOOD.**—The condition of being a State; pertaining to a State.

#### DAKOTA'S PLEA FOR STATEHOOD.

Washington, Feb. 1.—Delegate Gifford of Dakota was heard this morning by the House Committee on Territories in favor of the bill to admit North and South Dakota as separate States. He said the proposed STATES contain each nearly 75,000 square miles. Mr. Gifford read statements tending to substantiate the claim that the proposed STATES possess, in an eminent degree, all the conditions requisite to entitle them to admission to the sisterhood of STATES.—*Denver Republican*, 1888.

—**STATE HOUSE.**—The legislative meeting place of a State. —**STATES' RIGHTS.**—Each State, by the Constitution, while forming part of the General Union, retains a certain individual freedom of action, and the point at issue is whether or not the central authority can override these individual powers. The secession of the Southern States turned upon this question

as much as upon that of slavery, *per se.*—A PIVOTAL STATE.—A State, the vote of which in any election is of great importance, being likely to turn the scale one way or the other.

New York is a PIVOTAL STATE, and seems just now to have two Democratic pivots.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, January 31, 1888.

—**STATE TICKET.**—The list of candidates agreed upon by the leaders of a party for State offices. The committee choosing such candidates are called STATE FIXERS.

The State Central Committee of the Union Labor party met here to-day and decided to hold a State convention in this city June 24, to nominate a full STATE TICKET. Robert Schilling and other lights are here, and assert that this fall the labor party will carry the larger cities of the State, and, if present prospects hold out, stand a good chance of electing their STATE TICKET. Senator Fritz, of Milwaukee, Schilling, and others are addressing an assemblage of working men to-night.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, Feb. 2, 1888.

They refuse to take part in any boom, and declare that the movement that makes the next President will have to originate, not with STATE-FIXERS, but with the people themselves.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, March 7, 1888.

—**STATE ROOM.**—The cabin of a passenger steamer.

**STAVER.**—A go-ahead, pushing man or thing, equivalent to RUSTLER, ROUSER, etc. —**STAVING.**—This word is indicative of size and strength.

**STAY.**—PUT TOGETHER TO STAY. COME TO STAY.—These idioms are very popular as expressive of permanence and stability. New journals, almost as a matter of course, announce that they *come to stay*; often, as a matter of fact, it turns out that they only come "to go" if not in one sense, in another.

Betsy Jane were the high stepper o' Sugar Swamp. She were PUT TOGETHER TO STAY.—*Chicago Herald* 1888



—To STAY PUT.—To remain in *statu quo*.—STAY WITH.—Lovers stay with one another when courting. This may be compared with to SIT UP WITH, and the equally curious English "to walk out with."

STEAM.—To STEAM IT.—To tiddle.  
—STEAM-BOAT.—The restless activity of steam-travel, as compared with the old, slow methods, has given rise to the use of this word to represent an active, go-ahead character, *e.g.*, "he is a *steam-boat*"; or a member of the petticoat brigade will announce herself as a *she-steamboat*. —To STEAM-BOAT.  
—To work upon a steamer.

STEAMER (Cant).—A tobacco pipe.

STEEP.—A slang equivalent of almost every adjective of superlative degree comprised within a dictionary, and used very much as is "tall" for great, magnificent, extravagant, in England. Thus, if play be heavy the timorous gambler confesses that it is too *steep* for him; or the prices of stocks and shares may be too *steep* for an investor's pocket. Concerning an exceedingly *steep* hill, the Yankees have a sententious saying to describe it:—"Chain lightnin' couldn't go down it 'thout puttin' the shoe on."

STEEPLE.—Almost universally used instead of spire.—STEEPLE BUSH (*Spiraea tomentosa*).—Another name for the HARDHACK.

STEERER.—(1) See BUNCO. —(2) A gambler's decoy.

It should be said in justice to this great man that his liberality does not always take so unsubstantial a form. Nearly all of his STEERERS are clothed with the cast-off clothing of their master, which is always of the most expensive material. Hats and shoes are also distributed in this way.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, 1888.

—(3) A tout; an outside salesman.

Simon Fox, a runner for Nathan and Samter, a clothing firm, doing business at Fourth and Olive streets, was tried in the police court yesterday on charge of loitering, convicted and fined 25 dollars and costs. The charge was brought against him by the Humphrey, the Times, and other clothing dealers, who complained that he stood in front of their stores and STEERED customers away.—*Missouri Republican*, Feb. 24, 1888.

STEERS.—With the Texan driver all oxen are *steers*, and he has his *wheel-steers*, his *swing-steers*, and his *lead-steers*. He never uses "oxen" in the singular, and very seldom in the plural, when he does it is almost invariably "oxens." — *Overland Monthly*.

STEEVE, To.—To pass through the hands of a stevedore in loading or unloading vessels.

STEMMERY.—A place where tobacco is prepared by being stemmed, *i.e.*, where the leaves are stripped from the fibrous stems.

STEM-WINDER.—A keyless watch; an American invention now perfectly well known in England.

STENT.—Commonly colloquial in New England for a task or portion, in which sense it was used by Shakespeare. The idea still partially survives in England in the verb "to stint."

STEP.—To STEP OUT.—One of the many graphically descriptive idioms for death mainly current in the West. Unconsciously, perhaps, though none the less truly, this metaphor enshrines a great truth, death being, indeed, but a stepping, as it were, from one room to another—from the home here to the home beyond.

**STERN-WHEEL.**—This expression is used very much in the same manner as **ONE-HORSE** is employed, *i.e.*, to designate anything small, mean, or contemptible. The simile is derived from the small steamers called, in the West, **STERN-WHEELERS**, once used on shallow waterways, the paddle-wheel of which was situated in the stern of the vessel.

**STEW.**—An abbreviation for "a stew of oysters."

**STICK.**—If THAT'S THE WAY YOUR STICK FLOATS, *i.e.*, if that's what you mean. An allusion to a stick tied to a beaver trap by a string, and which, floating on the water, points out its position, should a beaver have attempted to carry it away.

—**CROOKED STICK.**—An ungainly, cross-grained person. — **STICK CHIMNEY.**—A temporary contrivance for conveying smoke out of a log hut, or other roughly-made building. These *stick chimneys* are only found in newly settled or remote parts of the country, and are formed by sticks being laid cross-wise and then daubed with mud. In Massachusetts, these were formerly called *catted chimneys*. The fireplaces in such cases consist merely of a few rough stones. — **To stick it out.**—To endure unflinchingly; to hold on to the end; "to stick like glue."

**STIFF.**—A corpse. Probably a corruption of "stiff'un."

'How much did you get for STIFFS?'

'Never less than 10 dols., and sometimes, when they was real scarce, I've got as high as 30 dols. and 35 dols. You see it's only in cold weather that the things will keep anyhow, and it's not everybody that happens to die that makes a good subject for the doctors. They never want a fat person, or one that dies of a contagious disease; but consumptive patients make good STIFFS, and when people die of diseases that the doctors ain't exactly

sure about.'—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, Jan. 24, 1888.

I saw that daylight was going to come on, when the dairymen and market folks would be on the road, and I knew it would never do for them to catch me with a STIFF in my cart. An idea struck me. I sat the STIFF up beside me on the seat and stuck a cigar in its mouth, and as I jogged along the road, whenever I passed anybody I let on as if I was talking to my partner.—*Ibid.*

**STIFFEN, To.**—A sporting phrase signifying to tamper with.

In the second race Mute, a horse owned by a resident of this city, was the favorite, and the Brooklyn delegation backed him heavily. He was ridden by the best jockey on the track, Georgie Taylor, and came fourth. The jockey tried hard to win, but report had it that Mute had been STIFFENED. —*Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, April 22, 1888.

**STILL HUNT.**—Originally a Western sporting term, a *still hunter* being a stalker of game. It was applied during the campaign of 1876, to political methods conducted in secret, or by under-hand methods.

**STILT.**—See **LAWYER**, with which it is identical in meaning.

**STINKARD.**—A former New England name for the skunk. It well deserves the name.

**STINK-STONE.**—Otherwise called **SWINE-STONE**. A limestone which derives its distinctive name from the unpleasant smell it emits when broken. — **STINK-WEED.** — **The JAMESTOWN WEED** (*q.v.*).

**STITCH, To.**—A New England term signifying to form land into ridges.

**STIVER, To.**—To decamp; to move on.

**Stock.**—A general name in the West for cattle, which, of course, is not exclusively American. — **Stock RAISING.**—One of the most impor-

tant industries of the New World, and especially of the Far West.—*See* COWBOY, BRAND, RANCH, ROUND-UP, etc.—**STOCK DEALER.**—A cattle dealer.—**STOCK RAISER.**—A cattle farmer.

Morison Wilcox, Deputy Sheriff of Cattaraugus County, New York, passed through the city this morning *en route* to Olean, having in custody James Gregory Lafler, a prominent **STOCK RAISER**, whose ranch is located near Watrous, N.M. The prisoner was handcuffed, and huge steel shackles were clasped about his ankles.—*New York World*, Feb. 14, 1888.

—**STOCK-TRAIN.**—A cattle-train.

**STOCKY.**—Short; thickly-built; stumpy. Provincial in England, but colloquial in the States.

When Sheridan was commanding a division in the Army of the Cumberland, he was not the stocky person he was afterward. He then weighed about 130 pounds; his figure was small, his face rather thin. He always had the same splendid black eye.—*American Humorist*, 1888.

**STOGIE.**—A short, thick cigar.

Squire Bright smokes nothing but **STOGIES** and drinks beer only. Loud dress is not one of his hobbies, but his clothes are of the finest. A high white collar and a small black bow are the most attractive things about him.—*Cincinnati Enquirer*, 1888.

**STOMP, To.**—This pronunciation of **STAMP** is common everywhere.

**STONE BEE, STONING BEE.**—A party of neighbors and friends who meet to clear a new-comer's plot of ground of stones. In some cases, as the Yankee proverb has it, "stones get a pretty heavy mortgage on the land."—*See* BEE.

**STONE ROOT** (*Collinsonia canadensis*).—A medicinal root, also known as **RICH WEED**.

**STOOP.**—This old Dutch term for steps or seats, at the entrance of a house, still holds its own, and has travelled beyond the boundaries of the old Dutch settlements all over the Union. The orthography is varied by *stoup* and *stowp*.

**STORE.**—All shops are *stores*, to tend *store* being to keep shop.—**STORE CLOTHES.**—The meaning of this term varies according to locality. In the West *store clothes* or *store goods* of any kind are those not home-made. In the East, however, *store clothes* would represent garments not made to measure.

Their dragon-prowed dug-outs—mighty canoes hewn out of huge logs and decked fantastically with carvings and gay colors—were hauled up on the banks of the Fraser, hundreds of men, in clumsy, coarse suits of **STORE CLOTHES**, loitered along the track to see the train come in, and beyond them, on a bluff, other men and 1,000 women and children—all dressed like the people one sees in the Blue Ridge Mountains, or any other section remote from large towns.—*San Francisco Weekly Bulletin*.

'Yes, you did-'bout six chaws. You borner'd *store tobacco* and paid back nigger-head.' *Store tobacco* is flat black plug, but these fellows mostly chaws the natural leaf twisted.—*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, p. 211.

—**STORE PAY.**—Payment in kind instead of cash. Currency in thinly-settled districts being scarce, it is often agreed that payment shall be made half in cash and half in *store-pay*, i.e., produce.—**STORE-SUGAR.**—Cane sugar as distinguished from maple-sugar.—**STORE-TEA.**—The Simon Pure, as distinct from herb teas.

**STOREY.**—American usage differs from the English in that the ground-floor of a building is called the first storey, that above the ground-floor being termed the second storey, and so on.—**STORIETTE.**—A short story. This diminutive is on the



same model as novelette, itself a latter-day production.

**STRADDLE.**—(1) See BLIND.—(2) A stock-broker's term, which has found its way into the political vocabulary. In 1884 "the *straddle* in the platform" designated measures taken to meet any contingency, whether as regards contrary voters or opposition tactics.

**STRAIGHT.**—An adjective which appears to be used in many connections, most of which, however, may easily be traced to the primary meaning of the word—not deviating nor crooked. *Straight* whiskey is neat whiskey, and when a victory is said to be *straight*, the meaning is that it was gained in fair encounter. *Straight* alcoholism on the contrary is anything but fair in its results, although in another sense it is *straight* enough, in the light of the direct and speedy ruin in which drink involves its victims. In poker a *straight* is a sequence of five.

The evil effects of drinking whiskey **STRAIGHT** were illustrated at the coroner's office this morning, and the finding of the physician who examined the case may serve to dispel some of the popularity of the traditional ditty that begins, 'Like every honest fellow I drink my whiskey clear.'—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, March 30, 1888.

Dr. Formad stated under oath that the man likewise took his whiskey without any watery weakening. He was positive that death resulted from **STRAIGHT ALCOHOLISM**. This case was continued to allow a report to be heard to-morrow, as it was reported that the man occasionally added water to his liquor.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, March 30, 1888.

D.D., West Superior, Wis.—Does the ace, deuce, tray, four and five constitute a **STRAIGHT**? Yes.—*Answer to Correspondent in New York Police Gazette*.

—**STRAIGHT AS A LOON'S LEG.**—See LOON'S LEG.—**STRAIGHT SHOOT.**—See AIR-LINE ROAD.—**STRAIGHT TICKET.**—See TICKET.

—**STRAIGHT UP AND DOWN.**—Honest to the backbone; plain and fair in dealing.

**STRANGER.**—A common mode of address in the West, where people necessarily stand on little ceremony.

**STRAPPED.**—A man is *strapped* when tightly pushed for money; hard up.

Mr. Madison Squeer (meeting Mr. Upson Downes in the café of the Hotel Sleswick)—Holy Jemina! Upson, what's that beast in your ulster?

Mr. Upson Downes—Sh-h-h-h! don't give it away, Maddy. He belongs to a friend of mine in the menagery line, and I've taught him this little act, so that I can borrow him when I get temporarily **STRAPPED**. Keep quiet two minutes longer, and I'll be loaded up for dinner to-night, and have a pretzel or two for breakfast.—*Puck*, 1888.

**STRAW.**—Pine needles, *i.e.*, the foliage of the pine-tree.—**STRAW BAIL.**—When men of no standing offer themselves as bail, the security is thus named.—**STRAW BID.**—A worthless bid; one not intended to be taken up.

**STREAK.**—A miner's term for a vein of ore; and, idiomatically, a mental peculiarity.—To **STREAK** or to **STREAK IT.**—To decamp or move away hastily; "to make tracks" with the utmost expedition.—**STREAKY.**—Indicative of extreme mental perturbation; full of apprehension; alarmed; anxious.—**STREAKED BASS.**—A New England name for the striped bass.

**STRICKEN.**—This old form is still generally colloquial.

**STRIKE.**—(1) In the West Indies a *strike* of sugar is the quantity dealt with at one boiling.—(2) An instrument with a straight edge for levelling a measure.—(3) A

fortunate "deal"; a stroke of luck.

—**STRIKER.**—(1) The tout or bully of a gambling den.—(2) An under-engineer on a Mississippi steamer.—**STRIKIST.**—One who strikes; a new and obnoxious form.—*See* **FRUITIST.**—**TO MAKE A TEN STRIKE.**—To meet with unexpected success. In the game of nine-pins, *to make a strike* is to knock down all the pins with one ball. Nine-pins being prohibited by law, an extra pin has been added to evade the penalty. — **TO STRIKE OIL.** — *See* **OIL.** — **TO STRIKE IT RICH, OR TO STRIKE LUCK.** —To make a successful venture, one that brings much money in its wake.

Inquiry developed the fact that lead had been discovered. There was a good deal of the stuff that is, enough to make the discoverer think he had **STRUCK IT RICH.**—*St. Paul and Minneapolis Pioneer Press*, July 22, 1888.

'I guess we have **STRUCK LUCK**, Sal,' said Si. 'I guess we are at our journey's end—at the end of our lariat.' 'I do hope so,' returned his wife, 'for I do really feel kinder home-y already.'—*The Critic*, April 14, 1888.

**STRING.**—A whip. "He laid the *string* on well and so ended the trouble." — **STRING BEANS.** — French or kidney beans.—*Also* **BUSH-BEANS** and **SNAPS** (*q.v.*).

**STRIPE.** — Used metaphorically for kind; sort; *e.g.*, a man of the right *stripe*, *i.e.*, to one's mind in one or more respects.—**STRIPED BASS.** —*The rock fish* (*q.v.*).—**STRIPED GROUND SQUIRREL.**—*The chipmunk* (*q.v.*).

**STRIPPER.**—A Pennsylvanian name for a cow which has nearly run dry of milk.

**STRIPPERS** (Cant).—Cards cut at the sides to allow of easy swindling.

**STRONG GOVERNMENT WHIGS.**—One of the early divisions of the original

Whig party which favored what we now call "centralization," as opposed to State Rights, or the **PARTICULARISTS** (*q.v.*). This wing of the party adopted the more easily handled name of **FEDERALISTS** (*q.v.*) after the adoption of the Constitution in 1789.—*Political Americanisms.*

**STUB, To.**—To knock one's toes against an obstacle. German, *stubben*.

She (a locomotive) goes lame from two causes. She does not **STUB** her toe, or have any one step on her corns, but she either slips an eccentric or does not cough regularly.—*Florida Times Union*, February 11, 1888.

**STUFFENING.**—A Western variant of stuffing, *i.e.*, seasoning.—**STUFFY.** —Angry; sulky; obstinate.

**STUMP.**—**TO TAKE THE STUMP OR TO BE ON THE STUMP.**—A political electioneering term. Candidates *stump* when delivering addresses in support of their candidature. From the practice of using the stumps of trees as a convenient platform.

I concede his (Mr. Blaine's) ability, and his staunch Republicanism, and he will **BE ON THE STUMP** with Conkling, Sherman, Edmunds, and other Republican giants next summer and fall.—*New York World*, Feb. 14, 1888.

—**STUMP SPEECH**, an election address. — **STUMP SPEAKER**, **STUMP ORATOR**, **STUMP ORATORY**, are of obvious meaning, while **STUMP PRAYER** is an extemporaneous prayer. — **STUMPAGE.**—A fee paid for the right of felling trees; used in Maine.—**STUMPTAIL CURRENCY.**—Before the war it was customary for banks to issue notes, and where the reputation of the establishment issuing this kind of money was indifferent or bad, the name of *stump-tail currency* was given to it.

**STYLE.**—To PUT ON STYLE.—To give oneself airs; to make a boastful or showy parade; singularity in one's speech, dress, or habit is also referred to in this phrase, and a Western man in his rough habiliments will tell a dandified DOWN-EASTER, that in wearing a silk hat and store clothes he is *putting on a yard too much style*.

When a country town PUTS ON STYLE, and gives you to understand that it is some great shakes, you can put it down as a nest of beats and fever and ague.—*Puck*, August, 1888.

**SUBSCRIBE.**—NOW IS THE TIME TO SUBSCRIBE!—A slang newspaper expression very often met with even in the best conducted journals. It is little more than a catch phrase, and means no more than it says.

The remainder of the thrilling story will be found in next Sunday's 'Tribune,' unless crowded out or suppressed on account of sympathy for Mr. Wojers' family. Now is THE TIME TO SUBSCRIBE.—*Chicago Tribune*, 1888.

**SUCCOTASH.**—A mixture of green Indian corn and beans boiled together, with "fixings" to taste. A favorite New England dish.

**SUCKER.**—(1) A greenhorn; one easily deceived. Originally a Western term. *Sucker* is a common name for a dupe wherever found—*i.e.*, everywhere.

When an Eastern man arrives in Los Angeles and deposits his wealth in one of the local banks, the bank president claps on his plug hat and frantically hunts up a real estate speculator with the information: 'There's a new SUCKER in town. Got 25,000 dols. Go for him.'—*Stockton (Cal.) Mail*, 1888.

—(2) A hard drinker.—(3) The tube, whether of glass, silver, or straw, used for imbibing "long drinks."—(4) A sponger; one who lives on another.—(5) A native

of Illinois, which is known as the SUCKER STATE; also as the Prairie State. The origin of the former name is doubtful.

There was a long-haired hoosier from Indiana, a couple of smart-looking SUCKERS from Illinois, a keen-eyed, leather-belted badger from Wisconsin; and who could refuse to drink with such a company?—*Hoffman, Winter in the West*, p. 210

—SUCKERDOM.—Inebriates and drunkards of every stage taken collectively.

**SUDSDAY (Cant).**—Washing day.

**SUGAR.**—SUGAR APPLE.—A West Indian fruit, otherwise known as the SWEET SOP.—SUGAR BERRY.—The HACKBERRY (*q.v.*).—SUGAR BUSH, SUGAR ORCHARD and SUGAR CAMP. These are names given in various parts of the country to a group of sugar maple trees. The sap is collected periodically and boiled down, usually on the spot.—SUGARING TIME.—March or April, the time of the year when maple sugar is made.—SUGAR MAPLE (*Acer saccharinum*).—From this noble forest tree is obtained the maple sugar of commerce; its wood, too, is valuable; the common varieties serve as fuel, and the ornamental ones are used in cabinet and picture frame making. It is also called the SUGAR TREE.

**SUICIDE, To.**—To commit suicide. This new and barbarous form having obtained considerable currency in America, has unfortunately made its way to England.

Wm. McClelland, residing in Clinton County, north-west of here, SUICIDED to-day by shooting himself. He was subject to fits of insanity, and while one of the spells was on him committed the deed.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, January 20, 1888.

**SUIT OF HAIR.**—A head of hair. A Southern colloquialism.



**SULKY.**—A two-wheeled carriage for a single person. The inference is obvious.

**SULL, To** (Texan).—To have the sulks. An obvious corruption.

**SUMMER, To.**—To spend the summer. Used precisely as "to winter" is employed in England.

Mr. John Habberton expects to SUMMER on top of one of the higher hills in Westchester Co., N.Y.—in other words, to remain at home in New Rochelle.—*The Critic*, 1888.

**SUMMER GAME** (Cant).—Playing merely for amusement, or for the benefit of another person with the latter's money.

**SUM-TOTALISE, To.**—To quote the sum-total.

**SUN.**—**SUNDOWN.**—Sunset. A survival of an Old English usage; **SUN-UP**, however, for "sunrise" is a new form, which, coming from the South, has become general throughout the Union.

And Jim said you mustn't count the things you are going to cook for dinner, because that would bring bad luck. The same if you shook the tablecloth after **SUNDOWN**. And he said if a man owned a bee-hive, and that man died, the bees must be told about it before **SUN-UP** next morning or else the bees would all weaken down and quit work and die.—*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, p. 69.

—**SUNFISH** (*Pomotis vulgaris*).—Also called **PUNKIN SEED** (*q.v.*).

—**To SUNFISH.**—A broncho *sun-fishes*, when he brings first one shoulder down almost to the ground and then the other.—

**SUNFLOWER-STATE.**—Kansas. (See quotation appended to **NO MAN'S LAND**.) — **SUN-SHOWER.** — Rain which falls while the sun continues to shine. Cf. **MOON-SHOWER.** — **SUN-SQUALL.**—In New England the **SEA NETTLE**.

**SUPAWN.**—Indian meal, prepared very much as is oatmeal porridge, and eaten with various condiments. *Supawn* is a corruption of the Indian name for this dish.

**SUPOUCH** (Cant).—A landlady.

**SUPPER.**—This corresponds among the unfashionable, in many parts, to the old-fashioned tea.

**SUPPLE-JACK.**—A vine-like plant of commercial value, for walking sticks. Used in the South and the Tropics.

**SURE-ENOUGH.**—Considerable latitude exists in regard to the use of this compound word in the sense of real; or genuine; especially when employed adjectively; e.g., a *sure-enough* man, horse, investment, i.e., a reliable man, a horse of good points, and an investment that is sound. "Sure as a gun" is the nearest English colloquial equivalent.

**SURFACE.** — **SURFACE BOAT.** — *See* **BATTERY.** — **SURFACE WASHER.** — A term of opprobrium among the '49 miners of California.—Gold was sometimes found, after a hard rain, on the surface, or just below it. The man who was seen, therefore, with his washing-pan only, trudging about in search of such finds, was generally considered too lazy to use a rocker or delve down to bottom rock to find the true deposit. Hence, the indolent, the superficial, and the artificial man, is spoken of as a *surface washer*.

**SURPRISE PARTY.**—A **DONATION PARTY.** — *See under* **DONATE.**

**SUSPENDERS.**—Braces. In England *suspenders* are used by women and

children to secure the stockings, being worn instead of garters.

'I feel awful good in my chemiloon,' she said, 'and then I wear SUSPENDERS.'—*Dr. Mary Walker's Lect. on Dress.*

**SUSPERCOL** (Cant).—To hang. The conglomerate pseudo-classic derivation of this word is obvious.

**SUSPICION, To.**—To suspect. Once common in England.

'I'm derved ef 't ain't the wery man I seed,' said Bijy, who never failed to know something about everything. 'He wuz comin' towards the camp-meetin' that wery afternoon. Dern!' and he shut his mouth, and got to his feet in excitement. 'I kind-uh SUSPICIONED 'im too,' he added.—*Century Magazine*, 1887.

**SWAD.**—In New England this Old English colloquialism for a lump, a mass, a bunch, or a crowd, is frequently heard.

There was a SWAD of fine folks at Saratoga, and dreadful nice girls.—*Major Downing's Letter*, p. 35.

—**I SWAD.**—A make-shift oath—"I swear!"

**SWAG.**—A depression caused by shrinking or settling down, as of earth, etc. — **To SWAG:** — To shrink, or collapse.

Both reights were going at a good speed when they struck. The engines were shattered into small fragments. Ten cars were derailed and shattered. The wreck occurred in a SWAG and the cars were thrown down an embankment. It is considered one of the worst places on the road.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, March 5, 1888.

**SWALE.**—A valley; a tract of bottom land. A New England localism, which is likewise a Norfolk provincialism, to which the idea of shade is also attached.

**SWALLOW-FORK.**—A cattle brand or mark.—*See BRAND.*

**SWALLOW TAILS.**—During the campaign of 1876 a considerable number of Democrats, who moved in fashionable New York circles, took an unprecedented interest in political affairs, hoping to effect much needed reforms. It is said that John Morissey, a retired prize-fighter and a prominent local politician of the day, becoming incensed at this invasion of his prerogatives, went down town one morning clad in full evening dress, and with a French dictionary under his arm. He explained his new departure by saying that this sort of thing was necessary in order to retain one's influence. The opposite faction was called the "short hairs," in deference either to their "fighting cut," or their supposed recent release from prison.—*Political Americanisms.*

**SWAMP.**—**I SWAMP, i.e., "I vow"; "I swear."**—A Yankee circumlocution.—**SWAMP ANGEL.**—*See NIGGER BABIES.*—**SWAMP-APPLE.**—An excrescence of the swamp honeysuckle, and so named from a similarity of taste between it and the well-known fruit.—**SWAMPERS.**—Men who make roads for lumberers to convey logs to the water's edge.—**SWAMP HONEYSUCKLE.**—Also **MAY APPLE, PINXTER BLUMMACHY (q.v.),** and **SWAMP PINK.**

**SWAN.**—**I swan; I swear.** A new England euphemism.

'What is the matter?' say you. **I SWAN** it's hard to tell!  
Most of the years behind us we've passed by very well!  
**I** have no other woman, she has no other man—  
Only we've lived together as long as we ever can.  
—*Betsy and I Are Out, Will Carleton's Farm Ballads.*

**SWANGA-BUCKRA.**—A negro epithet for a well-dressed white man. — *See* BUCKRA.

**SWANKEY.**—A compound of molasses, vinegar, and water,—a favorite beverage with the fishermen in Newfoundland.

'Thar, boys, we'll gin him a chance to pay his rent in Kentuck, and make SWANKEY of the Ohio.' [Addressed to a man who had been lynched by immersion in a tub of molasses, and who, being cast adrift on the Ohio River, had to regain *terra firma* by swimming ashore, thus producing a mixture akin to SWANKEY.]—*Lynch Law in the Sucker State*, 1873.

**SWARTWOUT, To.**—To abscond, or, to use an American slang equivalent, "to vamoose." A term used in New York, after a person of that name, who absconded with public money.

**SWASH or SWOSH.**—In the Southern States of America, a name given to a narrow sound or channel of water lying within a sandbank, or between that and the shore. Many such are found on the shores of the Carolinas.—*Webster*.

**SWAT.**—A corruption of "THAT'S WHAT"; a very common colloquialism when emphatic acquiescence is intended.

St. Peter.—'What's your name?' 'John L. Sullivan.' 'Oho! Yes, I've heard of you, Mr. Sullivan. You're quite a noted character down on earth.' 'Swat I am.' 'A champion pugilist, I believe?' 'I'm er world beater.' 'I suppose your business with me is to gain admission to heaven?' 'THAT'S WHAT.' 'Well, you can't go in; I don't think you'd be satisfied.' 'Why not?' 'The gate receipts are too light.'—*St. Paul Globe*, 1883.

—**TO SWAT.**—To deliver a blow, to strike.

'N' you, yeh skunk, git aout! Don't yeh walk on the same side of the street with me, or I'll swat the hull top of yer head off!—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

**SWATH, SWATHE, SWARTH.**—**TO CUT A SWATHE.**—To cut a dash; to noise abroad. A Western term.

Them thet rule us, them slave-traders,  
Haint they cut a thunderin' SWARTH  
(Helped by Yankee renegaders),  
Thru the vartu o' the North!  
—*Biglow Papers*.

'Mr. Cheerman, I don't want to go to Congress. I never've hed the least hankerin' after it. This State of aours is good enough for me. I wouldn't feel like myself ef I had to stan' 'raoun' 'n' see chaps from Rhode Island or Floridy puttin' on airs, and pretendin' to cut as big a SWATH as New York did. I'm too much of a State man fer thet.'—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

**SWEAR OFF, To.**—To renounce; to give up; to abandon.

The third article of war was read by a first sergeant, who was a veteran, and had served in the dragoons before the rebellion. He gave such an emphasis to the reading of the penalty for swearing that the boys began to feel that they must **SWEAR OFF** on profanity. Then the sergeant swore a blue streak for a minute or two before he gave the order to break ranks. Yet he did it unconsciously, as he said when his attention was called to it by a corporal, and only intended to emphasize the interdiction.—*Supplement to Troy Daily Times*, 1888.

—**SWEAR-WORD.**—An oath.

**SWEAT.**—**TO GO THROUGH ONE'S SWEAT.**—Synonymous with to have accomplished one's task; to have seen the last of trouble or anxiety.

While the Americans have **GONE THROUGH THEIR SWEAT**, and their naval department is now doing some excellent work, the British are enjoying one of their regular panics about invasion, and this time apparently with some reason.—*American Humorist*, November 3, 1893.

—**SWEAT-HOUSE.**—An institution common to nearly all the aboriginal tribes of California. Half a religious temple, it is also half a sanitary asylum, and used as a Russian bath or superheated vault, from which the braves, sweltering and stifling all night, by smothered fires, at early dawn plunged, per-



spring, into the ice-cold river. The heat and smoke were further utilized to dry and cure the long strips of fish hanging from the roof.

**SWINDLE.**—WHAT'S THE SWINDLE? What's to pay? "What's the damage?"

**SWITCHEL.**—A New England beverage of molasses, water, and vinegar.

Afore I had mixed a second glass of SWITCHEL, up they came, and the general

looked as chirp and lively as a skipper.—*Major Downing's Letters.*

**SWIZZLE.**—A COCKTAIL (*q.v.*); a deliciously seductive drink.

**SWOW.**—I SWOW.—I swear. Of New England origin:

So as I ain't a crooked stick, just like, like old (*I swow*, I don't know as I know his name)—I'll go back to my plough.

—*Biglow Papers.*

**SYEBUCK** (Cant).—Sixpence.





**AB.—TO KEEP TAB.—**  
To keep tally or count.

When the train pulled out Maloney was on board. The tickets were handed the conductor in a bunch, and as he did not keep TAB on the party

Maloney travelled free.—*Missouri Republican*, February 15th, 1888.

**TABLE, To.**—A parliamentary term, signifying to lay upon the table.  
—**TABLE-SPREAD.**—A table cloth.

Some very refined linen **TABLE-SPREADS** are effectively ornamented by borders in German cord work.—*Portland Transcript*, 1888.

—**TABLE STAKES.**—In poker a *table-stake* simply means that each player places his stake where it may be seen, and that a player cannot be raised more than he has upon the table; but at any time between the deals, he may increase his stake from his pocket, or he may put up any article for convenience sake, say a knife, and state that that makes his stake as large as any other player's, and he is then liable to be raised to any amount equal to the stake of any other player, and must make good with cash. When playing *table-stakes*, if a player have no money on the table, he must put up or declare his stake previous to raising his hand, and failing to do this, he must stand out of the game for that

hand.—*The American Hoyle.*—**TABLE WARE.**—The appointments of a dinner table, etc.—knives and forks, plates and dishes, etc.

This done the hum of many voices vainly strove to vie successfully with the sharp clatter of **TABLE WARE**, but humanity was vanquished speedily, and retaliated by laying siege to the good cheer that the attendants ever and anon brought.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, February 3, 1888.

**TACAMAHAC.**—The BALSAM POPLAR (*q.v.*).

**TACKEY.**—In the South, a jade of a horse; a sorry beast; and idiomatically a man neglectful of personal appearance.

**TACKLE (Cant).**—A grimly suggestive name for a mistress.

**TAD.**—A human being. Little *tads* are small boys; old *tads* are old men.

**TAFFY.**—A common corruption of "toffy."

**TAGS.**—A shortened form of **PINE-TAGS**, the foliage of the pine-tree.

**TAIL, To.**—To hold a steer down by the tail after it is lassoed and heeled. A cow-boy's word.—**TO HAVE ONE'S TAIL UP OR DOWN.**—To be doing well, or the reverse. Borrowed from the slang of the billiard table, this phrase is generally colloquial. Among animals

the lifting or lowering of the tail is regarded as a sign of pleasure or the contrary.

**TAILOR** (*Pomoolbus mediocris*).—The popular name of a small-sized shad of inferior flavor, peculiar to the Mississippi. A species of BLUE-FISH, a creature which, with many aliases, is called the SALT-WATER TAILOR on the Potomac.

**TAKE.**—To TAKE.—A Canadian rarely, if ever, speaks of water freezing, his idiom for that fact being "the ice is *taking*," or "the ice *took* last night."—To TAKE UP.—(1) On the plains to *take up* animals is to saddle or harness a horse, or an ox team.—(2) A Southern idiom signifying to put up at an inn.

**TALK.**—A conference; negotiation; or official communication among Indians.—TALKING IRON.—A gun or rifle. A talker that invariably says what it means.

**TALL.**—English ears are now fairly accustomed to the American use of this word; indeed, *tall* talk has come to be regarded as a characteristic of our cousins across the water. Fashion in America, however, has in a large measure substituted STEEP for *tall*. Both words are intensives: synonyms of great; fine; exceedingly; etc.

Sometimes very TALL stories are told as to the sailing qualities of ships, and quite marvellous rates of speed are braggingly mentioned.—*Texas Siftings*, Oct. 27, 1888.

**TAMAL** or **TAMAULI**.—A preparation of maize, common in Spanish America. The maize-meal is worked into a paste, with sometimes minced-meat added, the whole being then wrapped round

with the husks of corn and baked on an open fire.

**TAMARACK.**—See HACKMATAK.

**TAMMANY SOCIETY.**—An active branch of the Democratic Party, the headquarters of which are at Tammany Hall, New York, the vote of the party in that city being practically controlled by this organization. *Tammany* or *Tamendy* was a distinguished chief of the Delaware tribe, whose name was assumed politically as far back as 1789.

**TANGENTY.**—Erratic; capricious. Applied to men and women of angular mental characteristics.

**TANGLE FOOT** or **TANGLE LEG.**—Vigorous Western synonyms for whiskey.

Gunderman were on his way hum fm the tavern, an' had a snug an' comfortable cargo o' TANGLE FOOT aboard his self.—*New York Herald*, 1888.

**TAN TOASTER.**—This is the singular name in some parts of Maine for a gale or storm.

**TAPADEROS.**—Among Mexicans a leather covering for the protection of the feet.

**TAPIOCA.**—The well-known article of commerce.

It is extracted from the manioc (*Zatropa manihot*), a shrub indigenous to tropical America, and now cultivated from Florida to Magellan. It is said that an acre of manioc will nourish more persons than six acres of wheat. Its roots attain the size of the thigh. Every part of the plant is filled with a milky juice, which is a very violent and dangerous poison, producing death in a few minutes, when swallowed; yet human ingenuity has converted its roots into an article of food. This is done by grinding them in wooden mills, after which the paste is put into sacks, and exposed to the action of a powerful press. The poisonous juice is thereby



extracted, and the residue is the substance known as cassava or mandioca, a nutritious flour, preferred by the natives to that from wheat. When kept from moisture, this flour will keep good for fifteen or twenty years. The **TAPIOCA** is made by separating from the fibrous part of the roots a small quantity of the pulp, after the juice is extracted, and working it by hand till a thick white cream appears on the surface. This, being scraped off and washed in water, gradually subsides to the bottom. After the water is poured off, the remaining moisture is dissipated by a slow fire, and the substance being constantly stirred gradually forms into grains about as large as those of sago. This is the purest and most wholesome part of the manioc.—*Encyc. Americana*.

**TAPS.**—A West Point cadet's term for the evening bugle-call.

In a small party like ours, all the stated military calls are laid aside. Even **TAPS** is omitted; and one by one we dropped asleep, till nothing was left to the ear but the dull pacing of the sentinels or an occasional deep-drawn sigh from some horse at the picket-line.—*Century Magazine*, 1883.

—**TO BE ON ONE'S TAPS.**—To be on the alert; ready for action.

**TARHEELS.**—North Carolinians.—A name given in derision by Mississippians to a brigade of North Carolinians, who, in one of the great battles of the Civil War, failed to hold their position on a certain hill. The former taunted the latter with having forgotten to tar their heels that morning, and hence the cant name.

I gave him a little volume of North Carolina sketches, written by a talented young friend of mine, in the genuine **TARHEEL** dialect, and he has just brought it back to me, saying that he can't understand a word of it.—*American Humorist*, June 2, 1888.

**TARRIFY, To.**—To exercise undue pressure. Applied only in reference to coercive measures instituted by the authorities. A Southern colloquialism.

The word is generally referred back to a vulgar corruption of torified, from the Latin *torrere*, to roast, and this presumption is

strengthened by the fact that the word is so used and written in an anonymous 'Tour through North and South Carolina,' published some years before the Revolution. A recent writer humorously alludes to the enormous tax on cotton and tobacco, which **TARRIFIES** if it does not roast the unfortunate planters of the South, and suggests that if the word was not so old, it might very well be the result of being *tariff*-ied, since the tariff has become a synonym of misery.—*De Vere*.

**TARRY, To.**—To delay. This verb, fallen largely into disuse in the Mother Country, has been retained in America.

**TARVE.**—A turn; bend; or curve. In Old English, *torve* signified twisted.

**TASSEL.**—See **CORN TASSELS**.

Ah! dearest wife, my heart is stirred, my eyes are dim with tears,  
I think upon the loving faith of all these by-gone years;  
For now we stand upon this spot, as in that dewy morn,  
With the bloom upon the alder and the **TASSEL** on the corn.  
—*Donn Platt's The Bloom was on the Alder and the Tassel on the Corn*.

**TAUNTON TURKEYS.**—Herrings are so nicknamed on account of their being caught in large shoals off Taunton, Mass. Compare with **MARBLE-HEAD TURKEY**.

**TAUTAUG OR TAUTOG.**—The **BLACK FISH** (*q.v.*).

**TAX, To.**—In New England, to charge; an every-day colloquialism is "What will you *tax* me?"

**TEA, TEAPOMP.**—An institution which has long since disappeared from American social life. The old colonists, besides objecting to have their tea taxed, were also very particular as to how it was brewed, and fully recognized the superiority of some kinds of water for the purpose. This led to certain of the

pumps being called *tea-pumps* when the water stood the test of making good tea. — **TEA-SQUALL.** — An American slang equivalent to the English "tea-fight"; a tea-party.

**TEAM.** — An array of people or things; and idiomatically applied as the sincerest and highest form of praise. A very frequent expression is, "He's a whole *team*," or "a whole *team*, a horse to spare, and a big dog under the wagon." Of New England origin, these phrases are obviously an outcome of the intense love of horses so characteristic of the Yankee.

**TEAR, TO.** — A verb used to signify violent or rapid motion; *e.g.*, TO TEAR ALONG or TO TEAR ROUND. The metaphor is also extended to mental distress, but generally speaking, *to tear round* conveys the idea of noisy boisterousness produced by intoxication. Also A TEAR ROUND for the thing itself.

' Yes, Christmas, and to-night's Christmas Eve. Ye see, boys, I kinder thought—that is, I sorter had an idee, jest passin' like, you know—that maybe ye'd all like to come over to my house to-night, and have a sort of TEAR ROUND. But I suppose, now, you wouldn't? Don't feel like it maybe?' he added, with anxious sympathy, peering into the faces of his companions. — *Bret Harte's How Santa Claus came to Simpson's Bar.*

Florida produces a peculiar berry called Pride of China, of which the mocking-birds of that flowery land partake largely when ripe, and intoxication ensues. They get on a regular TEAR, and behave a good deal as men do under such circumstances, hiccoughing, staggering, leering at each other, shouting and mixing up all sorts of songs. One gravely endeavors to make a speech on the tariff, perhaps, or in favor of removing the excise tax from Pride of China, and the others jibe at him. There is a field for some unemployed temperance society to work. If they couldn't enforce prohibition, they might compel Pride of China to shut up Sundays. — *Texas Siftings*, August 18, 1888.

— **TEAR-COAT or TEAR-BLANKET** (pronounced TAR-COAT). — The SHOT BUSH (*q.v.*).

**TEETOTACIOUSLY.** — A Western form, supposed to be an emphatic variant of teetotal.

**TEETSOOK.** — A saddle-bag made of buffalo hide from which the hair has been removed. In use on the plains.

**TELEGRAM.** — No word, perhaps, has had a severer fight for existence than *telegram*, and its derivatives telegraphic, etc. It was introduced by the *Albany Evening Journal* of the 6th of April, 1852, and from the first caused considerable discussion. It was also claimed as of English invention, but assuming the point to be of sufficient importance for dispute, it seems certain that it was used first in America.

**TELEPHONE.** — This word, with its corresponding verb, adjective and adverb, is like the instrument, of American birth.

**TELESCOPE, TO.** — In railway collisions where one carriage, in colliding with another, runs right into it, after the manner in which telescopes are closed. Colloquial in England, but not a dictionary word.

**TELL.** — Used very much as the French employ *bon-mot*, *i.e.*, a witty story or saying; also a compliment. "Mrs. S. gave a good *tell* of you yesterday." — **TO TELL ONE GOOD BYE.** — To bid farewell. A Southern usage

**TEND.** — A common corruption of "attend." In passing it may be mentioned that shops, stores, and businesses of every description are in America *tended* and not kept. It is also worthy of remark that *tend* for attend is good Old English. —

**TENDSOME.**—A Connecticut word applied to troublesome children or to those requiring much attention.

**TENDERFOOT.**—A new-comer fresh to frontier ways; one who has not been long enough on the tramp to be hardened. It is said that in Colorado an Eastern man is a *tenderfoot* until he has been stabbed, shot at, engaged in a free fight, fallen down a mine, been kicked by a mule, and chased by a Vigilance Committee. A correspondent of the *New York Times* (1881), writing from Montana, says no such direful import attaches to the term there, and seemingly Coloradians, in adopting the word, have enlarged its meaning with local significance peculiar to their own institutions.

Judge Howell's son, and another young man, went out prospecting a few days since, and about eight miles west of here they struck an exceedingly rich ledge, showing free gold all through and over the rock. The boys were of the **TENDERFOOT** kind, and they did not know whether it was gold or brass. They were warmly congratulated on their rich strike.—*San Francisco Weekly Bulletin*, 1888.

**TENEMENT HOUSE.**—A building let out in rooms to families. The *tenement* houses of New York are generally regarded as amongst the worst of their kind. Two, three, and even four families in a room is not an uncommon experience. It is doubtful, however, whether this could not be equalled in some parts of London.

**TEN-PINS.**—A law was passed prohibiting the game of nine-pins, whereupon, not to be outdone, some of our 'cute transatlantic friends promptly added another pin, thus driving the traditional coach and pair through the statute.—**TEN-STRIKE.**—Where in the game of ten-pins all the men are bowled

over at one throw of the ball—a lucky and comparatively infrequent result. Hence the idiomatic use of *ten-strike* to signify a fortunate occurrence: a thoroughly well done and complete work.

**TEN STRIKERS** (Texas).—Men who, in the conflict between North and South, boasted they were an equal match for ten Yankees. The phrase was first introduced by Lieut. J. W. Boothe, of the Seventh Texas Battalion, and at once leaped into popular and general use. In the Cis-Mississippi States they were called **BOMB-PROOFS** (*q.v.*).—*See also* **WE-MEN**.

**TEPEES.**—An Indian lodge or tent.

**TERAWCHY! TERAWCHY!**—The "creep-mouse! creep-mouse!" of English mothers when playing with their children. The derivation of *terawchy* has been sought in the Dutch *te-ratje*, the little rat.

**TERRAPIN.**—A salt-water turtle, abounding south of New York. The flesh is much esteemed as a delicacy.

**TERRET.**—The guiding ring for the reins of the harness of a horse. This is current in New England.

**TERRITORY.**—A large district of country belonging to the United States, though not forming a part of any individual State, and under a temporary government (*Worcester*). The *territories* at present are Colorado, Washington, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Idaho, Montana, Dacotah, Alaska, Wyoming.

**TERTULIA.**—*See* **TORTILLA**.



**TESQUITE.**—The upper incrustation found on ALKALI DESERTS (*q.v.*).

**TEST-PAPER.**—In Pennsylvania law courts a document when put in as evidence is called a *test paper*.

**TEW, To.**—To fume; to fuss; or to fret.—To TEW ROUND.—To make a pretence of work without performing anything. Generally applied to a busybody in household affairs.

**TEXAN HARE.**—The JACKASS RABBIT (*q.v.*).

**TEXAS.**—The upper deck of the immense Mississippi steamers and boats of a similar character.

This is now a most desirable place, a light structure with glazed sides in the very centre of the steamer, and immediately around the little glass house, from which the boat is steered, so as to afford ample room and a fine view. The cabins below this and above the grand saloon, where the officers of the boat are accommodated, also belong to TEXAS. Formerly, however, the space was open, without guards at the side or awning above-head, and frequented by the personal friends of the pilot and their associates, men of great daring, no doubt, and expert in the use of bowie-knife and pistol, but as little desirable company as the first settlers in the Republic of TEXAS, which attracted all the lawless and desperate characters of the Union. It was then the name was given to this part of the boats, and the application was probably not altogether inappropriate.—*De Vere*.

De Vere further explains *Texas* as literally meaning "tiles"; but in a recent article published in the *North American Review*, Governor Ireland, of *Texas*, asserts that the word *Texas* means "welcome," and that on the landing of the first white men on the coast of *Texas*, the Indians greeted them with the exclamation of "*Texas!*" or "welcome!" This theory, however, according to a correspondent in the *Texas Vorwaerts*, is not correct. In the ancient Spanish archives, stored

away in the land office at Austin, it appears that certain lands were situated "en el pais de los Tejas," or in the country of the Texas or Tejas Indians, "x" and "j" being pronounced alike. It is well known that the Texas or Tejas Indians were a tribe of Indians living in the valley of the Rio Grands, who were exterminated or driven off by a more savage tribe. The word Texas or Tejas is the root of the names of all the Indian tribes in Texas and Mexico. The prefix indicated the locality of the tribe. The As-Tejas, or Aztecs, dwelt on the high lands of Anahuac. The Tol-Tejas, or Toltecs, lived as far south as Yucatan. The Huas-Tejas lived on the Gulf coast, between Mata moros and Vera Cruz, and the Tol-Tejas were located in the State of Coahuila.—TEXAS FEVER.—The Spanish fever.—TEXAS TENDER.—The waiter on the Texas or upper deck of a Mississippi steamer.

**THANKSGIVING DAY.**—A Puritan custom. A day is set apart each year in acknowledgment of fruitful harvests and other blessings. The festival generally occurs in November, and is looked upon very much as Christmas is in England.

**THANK-YE-MA'AMS.**—Ruts or depressions in a road.—A facetious acknowledgment of a sound shaking.

**THAT'S SO!**—Something accomplished; a term of acquiescence. This expression according to the old short-lived *American Notes and Queries*, first came to the front in 1857. Since then it has become very common in both hemispheres.

**THERE.**—ALL THERE.—A phrase used to convey consent; an intimation of

familiarity with a subject ; on the spot ; at home.

That man, Deenan, is a miserable hypocrite ! I hev my own opinion of the likes of him ! They hev little good in them—barrin' the big talk—an' that puts no whiskey in the can. He's all smooth and straight while forinst ye, but when out of sight he's worse nor a rattlesnake. More nor that, he has no backbone in him ! When the trying time comes you don't find him THERE.—*Pinkerton's Mollie Maguires*.

**THIMBLE (Cant).**—A watch.

**THIMBLE-BERRY** (*Rubus occidentalis*).

—A wild, black raspberry. —

**THIMBLE-WEED** (*Rudbeckia*). — A medicinal plant attaining a height of from six to eight feet, used by the Shakers in their preparations. In appearance it is not unlike the sunflower.

**THIRD HOUSE.**—The LOBBY (*q.v.*).

**THIRDS.**—This in the sense of dower is found in Middleton's plays. Commonly colloquial.

**THIRSTLAND.**—The region of extinct lakes and inland seas of Southern Nevada and South-eastern California is the great *thirstland* of the continent. Where immense lakes once rolled their waves are now seen nought but broad and thirsty deserts.—*See* ALKALI DESERT.

**THOROUGHFARE.**—A low gap in a range of hills. A Southern usage.

**THOROUGHWORT.**—The BONESET (*q.v.*).

**THREE SIXES.**—A fire signal denoting urgency.

A second and third alarm was sent out, followed by the famous THREE SIXES, which brought engines from all parts of the city skurrying to the scene.—*New York Mail and Express*, May 27, 1888.

**THREE TWENTY-NINE (329).**—During the presidential campaign of 1880, these numbers were chalked by Democrats on every wall, doorstep, and fence in the land. Mr. Garfield, the Republican candidate, had been charged with having received a bribe of 329 dols. worth of Credit Mobilier Stock.—*Political Americanisms*.

**THRESWINS (Cant).**—A three cent piece.

**THRUMS (Cant).**—Three cent pieces.

**TICKER.**—In American stock-broking circles, a "tape."

The question is, and it is one that has long puzzled the governors of the Stock Exchange, and it is alleged that the TICKER companies are also in the dark. Where do the BUCKET-SHOPS (*q.v.*) get their quotations on which they do business? The Stock Exchange sells the right to gather their quotations to the Gold and Stock Telegraph Company and the Commercial Telegram Company. The Exchange collects the trades as they are made by the brokers, and two expert telegraph operators send them over the wires which run to the Commercial Telegram Company's office at No. 21, Broadway, and from there to the office of the Gold and Stock Company in the Western Union Building. At each of the latter offices two telegraph operators sit on each side of the man who manipulates the TICKER, and as fast as the telegraphers receive the prices, the TICKER operator sends them out over the circuit to brokers' offices and elsewhere. Now the bucket-shop men must receive these prices as soon as the brokers and others who have TICKERS in their offices, or they would be placed at a serious disadvantage, and could not do business. The TICKER companies are not allowed to place TICKERS in bucket-shops and they have none ; but the bucket-shop prices are received over a Morse telegraph wire, and are furnished at the rate of 65 dols. per week by a firm that is known as the New York Quotation Company, on New Street. This firm is merely a combination of telegraph operators. How it gets the quotations is a mystery, and can only be surmised. The TICKER companies have an alleged standing offer of 1,000 dols. for the discovery of their scheme.—*New York World*, 1888.

**TICKET.**—A list of candidates placed in nomination for office, as the "Democratic ticket," the "Prohibition ticket," etc. A "straight ticket" comprises all the regular party nominations. A "split ticket" represents different divisions of a party. A "mixed ticket" combines the nominees of different parties. A "scratch ticket" is one from which one or more names have been erased.

In Monro county, at last accounts, not a single politician had announced himself a candidate for any office, all who are ambitious of serving their fellow-citizens, appearing to be waiting for developments. A correspondent of the 'Little Rock Gazette' thinks a compromise TICKET will finally be decided on, with a white man for sheriff, judge, treasurer, clerk, senator and surveyor, and a colored man as representative, assessor and coroner. Such a TICKET, he says, will, if put in the field, win without a doubt.—*Missouri Republican*, March 7, 1888.

—TO TAKE A THROUGH TICKET TO A BETTER WORLD.—An expressive synonym of to die, an analogous phrase with those murderously inclined, being TO CHECK A FELLOW PASSENGER THROUGH TO THE HAPPY LAND.—TICKET SCALPER.—A speculator in unused railway tickets.—See RAILROAD and MILEAGE.

**TICKLER.**—(1) A cash-balance book; also a memorandum of debts owing and payments due.—(2) A pocket flask. A throat tickler in very deed.

**TIDY.**—An antimacassar. Smith, in his *Curious Derivations*, gives this as from the Old English word "tide," meaning time, as even-tide, and closely connected with the German *zeit*. So tidy is *zeitig*, timely or seasonable.

**TIGER.**—Instead of calling for cheers to the tune of "three times three," Americans demand three

cheers and a tiger. The *Boston Evening Gazette* has given the following explanation of the term:—

In 1822, the Boston Light Infantry, under Captain Mackintosh and Lieutenant Robert C. Winthrop, visited Salem, and encamped in Washington Square; and during their stay a few of the members indulged in sports incidental to camp duty, when some visitor exclaimed to one who was a little rough, 'Oh, you TIGER!' It became a catchword, and as a term of playful reproach, 'You're a TIGER,' was adopted as one of the peculiar phrases of the corps. On the route to Boston, some musical genius sung an impromptu line, 'Oh, you TIGERS, don't you know,' to the air of 'Rob Roy McGregor, oh!' Of course, the appellation soon induced the TIGERS by name to imitate the actions of a tiger; and the growl was introduced, and at the conclusion of three cheers a tiger was invariably called for. In 1826, the Infantry visited New York, being the first volunteer corps to make a trip from this city to another State; and, while there, the TIGERS at a public festival awoke the echoes, and astonished the Gothamites by giving the genuine howl. It pleased the fancy of the hosts, and gradually it became adopted on all festive and joyous occasions; and now three cheers and a TIGER are the inseparable demonstrations of approbation in that city.

—TO BUCK THE TIGER.—To gamble, or, when particularly employed, to play faro. In *Appleton's Journal* occurs the following derivation:—

The ordinary faro is generally veiled under the euphuistic term of Ye TIGER, a curious name, quite adequate to express the destructive and voracious nature of the game, but recently attributed to a Chinese deity! A favorite figure of one of the Chinese gods of gambling is a TIGER standing on his hind-feet, and grasping a large cash in his mouth or his paws. Sometimes the image is made of wood or clay, or drawn on a piece of paper or board. The title of the beast, His Excellency the Grasping Cash TIGER, is frequently written on a piece of paper, and placed in the gambling rooms between two bunches of mock-money suspended under the table or on the wall behind it. This figure is the sign for a gambling house: 'The Fighting TIGER.' It is curious that we should have to look to China for the origin of this phrase.

Concerning a recent gambling-house raid in Chicago, the *Daily Inter-Ocean*, of February 14, 1888, thus illustrates the use of this



phrase:—"Last night and to-day they have succeeded in placing under arrest six of the leading gambling-house keepers of the city and subpoenaed thirty citizens as witnesses, among whom are said to be prominent city officials and business men. This evening some of the witnesses are going the rounds of the local papers trying to have their names suppressed. The affair has caused a good deal of talk already, and if reports are anywhere near true, it will create a great sensation when the cases are called, and more than one unsuspecting wife will have her eyes opened to the fact that the wicked *tiger*, and not legitimate business has been detaining her husband out so late at night."—TIGER CAT.—The OCELOT (*q.v.*).

**TILPAH.**—A plains' term for a parti-colored rug, woven and dyed by the Navaga or Taos Indians, and used as a saddle blanket.

**TILT.**—The BLACK-NECKED STILT or LAWYER (*q.v.*).

**TIMBER.**—Woodland. A Western and Southern usage. *See also* CROSS-TIMBER.—TIMBER HEELS.—A slouching, slovenly walker.

**TIME.**—A GOOD TIME, is not quite such a genuine Americanism as is often thought, it having been used by sundry Old English writers. *A good time* may mean anything, from simple, innocent enjoyment, to a downright drunken spree, a speaker's character being the interpreter of his meaning. Of course, about a HIGH OLD TIME there can be no possible mistake. — ALL THE TIME.—An American idiom for always.—ON TIME.—*See under* ON.—TO MAKE TIME.—To be

punctual. — TO PUT IN TIME.—To pass away the time.

I sat down in one of the iron-armed compartments of an old sofa, and PUT IN THE TIME for a while, reading the framed advertisements of all sorts of quack nostrums.—*Mark Twain's Screamers.*

**TIMOTHY** (*Phleum pratense*). — The herd's grass. Its popular name is derived from Timothy Hanson, who introduced it into cultivation.

**TINAJA.**—A Spanish-Mexican term for holes in rocks forming receptacles for water. Primarily *tinaja* means an earthenware vessel.

**TINCLADS.**—A half-sarcastic, half-facetious title given by Confederates to their own native-built war cruisers. The Northern men-of-war they called CHEESE-BOXES.

**TINKER.**—A New England name for a small mackerel. Small, indifferent fish generally receive very curious nicknames, *e.g.*, a small shad is called a "tailor." It will also be borne in mind that a dried herring is called a "soldier" in England.

**TINNER.**—A tinplate-worker.

He knows that if he wished to become a TINNER the master smith would require him to prove the possession of a good character, and would require him to promise to stay in the shop three years—possibly four.—*Mark Twain's Screamers.*

**TIPPECANOE.**—A nickname of William Henry Harrison, ninth President of the United States, given him because of his victory over the Indians of the North-west, under Tecumish, in 1811. "*Tippecanoe* and Tyler too," was the refrain of a popular song during the LOG CABIN AND HARD CIDER (*q.v.*) Campaign in 1839.

General Harrison touched upon the surplus and the tariff issue in his response. After shaking hands with the visitors, among whom were a score of veterans of the TIPPECANOE campaign, the general boarded a street car and spent the remainder of the day at home.—*Denver Republican*, 1888.

**TIPPLE, To**, is familiar enough in England for to drink; not so, however, for the drink itself—*e.g.*, good *tipple*, genuine liquor; a new *tipple*, a new mixed drink.

**TIPPYBOBS**.—The "upper classes"; a term carrying with it the utmost contempt.

**TIPSINAH**.—The INDIAN TURNIP (*q.v.*).

**TIPTEER, To**.—To walk in a mincing manner.

When you see a gentleman TIPTEERING along Broadway, with a lady wiggle-wagging by his side, and both dressed to kill, as the vulgar would say, you may say that he looks out for himself and takes care of A. No. 1.—*Dow's Sermons*, vol. i, p. 208.

**TISANNE**.—A Canadian herbal tea, made from spruce tops. It is supposed, like sarsaparilla, to be a blood-purifier.

**TITHING-MAN**.—In New England, a parish officer appointed to preserve order at public worship, and enforce the proper observance of the Sabbath.—*Worcester*.

**To**.—(1) For a peculiar usage of this preposition, *see* HOME.—(2) Very frequently, both in conversation and writing, *to* is omitted, where the verb is in the infinitive; *e.g.*, "I am going gather flowers"; "I intend take a walk," etc.

**TOAD-FISH** (*Batrachus variegatus*).—An ugly fish, which, in New Jersey, is known as the OYSTER FISH, and in New England as the GRUBBY

OR GRUBBLY. Also called TOAD-GRUNTER. — TOAD-STICKER. — A soldier's term for a sword.

**TOBACCO BOX**. — *See* PUNKIN SEED. — **TOBACCO ROOT**.—The Kooyah root.—**SUMS OF TOBACCO**.—This old official term had its rise in the payment of taxes in kind, *tobacco* in the South, where the phrase was mainly used, being the staple product.

**TOBOGGAN, To**.—Since the introduction of this amusement into England on artificial lines, this word and its derivatives have become thoroughly familiar. The *toboggan* was originally a small sledge or sleigh drawn by dogs and used mainly in the Canadian Northwest. The New England equivalent is TO COAST.

**TOLE, To**.—To allure. A donkey would be *toled* if excited to more rapid progress by a carrot being held before it. The term is only used in connection with animals.

**TOLOBON** (Cant).—The tongue.

**TOMAHAWK**.—An Indian hatchet or axe. For phrases connected with this weapon, *see* HATCHET. — **TOMAHAWK RIGHTS**.—Formerly a species of land title; all that the claimant had to do was to blaze his initials with a *tomahawk* or hatchet on a few of the trees surrounding his claim.

**TOMBS**.—The common prison in New York City. This building is of the heavy Egyptian style of architecture.

Bedell, who robbed a New York law firm of a large amount, and Foster, who got away with nearly two hundred thousand dollars belonging to the gratuity fund of the Produce Exchange, are much talked about just

now. The former's rascality being unearthed was what caused the latter's exposure, both financiers dealing in mortgages. Consequently Foster, compelled to fly, cannot feel very friendly towards Bedell. He feels that he might have kept on with his pilfering some time longer, had not Bedell been so foolish as to get caught and locked up in the tombs. Foster wouldn't call on him if he were here.—*Texas Siftings*, Oct. 27, 1888.

—**TOMBS LAWYER.**—See **SHYSTER**, with which it is synonymous.

**TOM COD** (*Morhua pruinosa*).—This is the same as the **FROST FISH** (*q.v.*). *Tom cod* is thought to be a corruption of the Indian *tahcand*.

This, of course, was an uncommon case of stupidity, even in a native who has seen nothing but rough men, **TOM CODS** and horse mackerel out in deep sea; but it shows how little prepared for civilization some of these native denizens are.—*New York Mercury*, July 21, 1888.

**TOM-DOG.**—A dog as distinguished from a bitch. This Western usage follows, in regard to dogs, that usually connected with cats only in England, as far as animals are concerned.

**TONEY.**—Good style; "the thing"; good form. It may be remarked that the "toniness" of society is by no means synonymous with manliness or sincerity; the drones are generally "*real toney*," the workers are "vulgar."

**TONGUE.**—The pole of a waggon or omnibus is so called.—**TO GIVE ONE'S TONGUE A VACATION.**—To remain silent. In England we say "to give one's tongue a rest."

**TONNAGE CART.**—A freight car.

**TOOIN' ROUND.**—Aimless activity. New England.

**TOOT.**—**ON A TOOT.**—On a drunken spree.

**TOOTH.**—**TOOTH-CARPENTER.**—A dentist. Perhaps some excuse exists for this otherwise vulgar name in the fact that American dentistry has reached such a high state of perfection, that decayed portions of a tooth are cut out and replaced by sound material.—**TOOTH-ACHE BUSH** (*Xanthoxylum fraxineum*).—The **PRICKLY ASH**, a specific for tooth-ache, as also is **TOOTH-ACHE GRASS** (*Monocera aromatica*).—**ARKANSAS TOOTHPICK.**—A bowie knife; sometimes shortened to **TOOTHPICK**.

Because, ye see, 't's the fashion here, to sign an' not to think  
A critter 'd be so sorded ez to ax' em for the chink;  
I didn't call but jest on one, an' he drawed  
TOOTHPICK on me,  
An' reckoned he warn't goin' to stan' no sech  
doggauned econ'my.

—*Biglow Papers*.

**TOOTING-TUB.**—A church organ.

**TOOZER OR TWOZER.**—A boy's term for a marble.

**TOP, TO.**—In Pennsylvania to snuff (a candle).

**TORMENTED.**—A New England euphemism for "damned."—**TORMENTATION.**—Also used by New Englanders, as synonymous with torment; pain; or trouble.

**TORTILLA.**—A diminutive of *torto*, a cake. In Mexico it is a pancake made of Indian meal, mashed and baked on an earthen pan.

A woman was kneeling upon the ground, under a fig-tree, rubbing the metate, and a pretty girl of fifteen was slapping a **TORTILLA** between her hands.—*Olmssted's Texas*.

**TORTLE.**—A corruption of "turtle," which has a vogue in Pennsylvania.



**TORY.**—When the declaration of Independence compelled a definition of the difference between royalists and rebels, *Tories* naturally remained loyal to the Crown, while Whigs generally espoused the patriotic cause. After the Revolution the word *Tory* dropped out of popular usage save as a term of opprobrium.—See **WHIG**.

**TOTE, TO.**—To carry a load, etc. Going from one place to another, is also spoken of as *toting up*. Colloquial everywhere, especially in the South.

With one hand on her hip and the other idly swinging, Dolly could **TOTE** a pail of water on her head up the ascent from the spring without spilling a drop.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*, 1888.

De Vere thus discusses this strange word :—

This verb, which of all colloquial Americanisms has probably excited the most general interest and led to innumerable disquisitions, remains still unexplained as far as its first origin is concerned. It is universally used in the South to denote the carrying something weighty by personal effort and unaided by any convenience. The strangest of all explanations is probably that given by Webster in his Dictionary. He says of the word, 'said to be of African origin.' This suggestion has nothing in its favor except the simple fact, that the negroes never use any other word for carrying. It is almost as improbable, that the word should have been derived from the Old English word **TOȚE**, which was used to express the process of summing up the total amount, and which is still in use in Lincolnshire, where people say, 'Come, **TOȚE** it up and tell me what is the whole amount.' ('Notes and Queries.') Chaucer also uses the word in this sense. It seems far more probable, that the word should owe its present use to the fact, that when Virginia was settled, and the term **TOȚE** was brought to this country, the English emigrants were familiar with it from two entirely different sources. One was the Anglo-Saxon verb *totian*, to lift up, to elevate. (*Totodun ut tha heafdu*: *eminebant capita*, Past. 16, 5. Bosworth, 'Anglo-Saxon Dictionary,' and 'English Dictionary,' p. 226.) This old Saxon word, used in its primitive sense, still survived in the provinces, and was carried by persons, accustomed to its sound

and use, to America, where it has never ceased to be used. At the same time, Englishmen were all more or less familiar with the word *tolt*, the name of a writ, by which the proceedings on a writ of right are removed (carried) from the Court Baron into the County Court, the precept of the sheriff being, *quia tollit atque eximit causam e curia baronum* (3 C., Blackstone, 'Commentaries,' p. 34). Blount's 'Law Dictionary' (1691) states, that the familiar term *tolt* was derived from the Latin verb *tolle*, to lift or remove. In the colonies this word and the Anglo-Saxon **TOTE**, combined to express the process of removing corporeal things as well as incorporeal, and being short and easy of pronunciation, the negroes especially readily seized upon it, to denote the lifting of a thing with a view of carrying it from one place to another. That the word is by no means unknown in England may be seen from the fact that already Piers Plowman says in his Crede: 'Then **TOTED** I into a taverne and there I espyede two frere Carmes' (Ed. 1,553, B. III.); and that the handle of a carpenter's plane is to this day called a **TOTE** in England, evidently from the Anglo-Saxon verb mentioned above.

—**TO TOTE FAIR.**—To be fair in dealing; to act "on the square."

—**TOTE LOAD.**—As much as one can carry.

**TOTEM.**—A red-skin's "coat of arms," the device being painted on the breast. Each tribe and family have different "bearings," which serve as a name or designation. *Totems* are generally representations of animals. Also **TOTEMIC**, *i.e.*, pertaining to the *totem*.

**TOTTISH.**—Unsteady; vacillating; not to be depended on. From "totter," to reel; to shake.

**TOUCH, TO (Cant).**—To steal. An impressive commentary on the line of thought adopted by the criminal classes.

**TOUGH.**—Explained by quotation.

Little Phil was decidedly **TOUGH**—in both the meanings of the word in the West. He was, so his mother and early companions say, extremely **TOUGH** in fiber, as healthy as a pine knot. It is not probable that he

ever cost his parents 5 dollars in medicine. But he was also a trifle *TOUGH* in the slang meaning of the word, a fighter, and prone to mischievous pranks.—*American Humorist*, July 27, 1888.

—**TOUGHS.**—A New York term for a rowdy; from the second signification given in previous quotation.

This was the opportunity of some New York *TOUGHS* and pickpockets who had accompanied the picnic, and they proceeded at once to stir up a fight.—*New York Herald*, July 29, 1888.

**TOW OR TOWBOAT.**—A freight boat; a barge, or canal boat.—**TOWHEAD.**

—(1) A small recently formed island. In the Mississippi especially, by the silting up of mud round sunken trees and through other causes, *towheads* are in continual process of formation.

On this up trip I saw a little *TOWHEAD* (infant island) half a mile long, which had been formed during the past nineteen years. Since there was so much time to spare that nineteen years of it could be devoted to the construction of a mere *TOWHEAD*, where was the use, originally, in rushing this whole globe through in six days? It is likely that if more time had been taken, in the first place, the world would have been made right, and this ceaseless improving and repairing would not be necessary now.—*Mark Twain's Life on the Mississippi*, p. 452.

—(2) A Western term for a man wearing tailor-made clothes and otherwise of a more dandified appearance than is customary in those parts of the country.—

**TOWHEE.**—The *CHEWINK* (*q.v.*).

But many of our birds, especially those found in the wooded river bottoms, answer to those of the East; only almost each one has some marked point of difference from its Eastern representative. The *TOWHEE* has lost all title to its name, for its only cry is a mew like that of a cat-bird.—*Ranch Life in the Far West*.

**TOWN.**—Worcester describes a *town* in the New England meaning as (1) a small territorial district,

whether densely or thinly inhabited.—(2) A body of voters within a township, district, or parish.—**TOWNHOUSE.**—(1) This has the same relation to townships as "town halls" have to boroughs in England.—(2) In Connecticut, an almshouse.—**TOWN LOT.**—*See* **LOT.**—**TO PAINT THE TOWN RED.**—To go on a drunken spree, and generally "to act the fool."

'He stains the town incarnadine,'

The Boston maiden said.

The western maid remarked, 'You mean

HE PAINTS THE WHOLE TOWN RED.'

—*Washington Critic*, 1888.

The flannel shirt is an excellent thing

To wear on a summer day,

And we don't object to the style at all—

But what we were going to say

Is,

That

A man who will wear a flannel shirt,

And hold up his pants with a sash

AS RED as a TOWN that is PAINTED right,

Is the man that we want to smash.

—*Washington Critic*, 1888.

But as Lumpkin takes in the money he spends it like a Prince. After a big day's business he has been known to blow in one thousand dollars in a single night *PAINTING THE TOWN RED*. The result is that when the office is open for business the next morning the cash drawer is empty.—*New York World*, 1888.

—**TOWNSHIP.**—The district or territory of a town. In the United States, many of the States are divided into *townships* of five, six, or seven, or perhaps ten miles' square, and the inhabitants of such *townships* are invested with certain powers for regulating their own affairs, such as repairing roads and providing for the poor. The *township* is subordinate to the county.—*Webster*. In Canada (Province of Quebec, the districts or parts that are exempt from feudal laws are called *townships*.

**Tow Row.**—A shindy; a noise; a racket.

**TRACK.**—The "permanent way" of English railways; the space between the rails.

Lincoln Street Car Passenger (to driver)—'This line must have been improved recently!'

'No, sir. No changes have been made.'

'But this car runs very smoothly.'

'Well, you see it's off the **TRACK**.'—*Lincoln Journal*, 1888.

—To **CLEAR THE TRACK** is the American equivalent of the English "to clear the deck."—To **BE ON THE INSIDE TRACK**, doubtless an allusion to the *inside track* of a race-course, signifies to be in a commanding position; to occupy the coign of vantage.—**IN ONE'S TRACKS**, for "immediately," says Lowell, is an importation from the Latin *e vestigio*, or the Norman-French *enes les pas*.—*Big. Intro.*, 169.

**TRADE, To.**—(1) To sell or barter; and, used as a noun, the operation itself.

A Louisiana man has had three wives in four years. He **TRADED** one for a farm, another for a pair of horses, and the third for a mule. He is only forty years old, and expects to stock his farm entirely if he has good luck.—*Abilene (Kas.) Gazette*, 1888.

Says he, 'Look at your members now,

There's Jones got drunk, and Swem

Will cheat a friend to make a **TRADE**;

Ain't I as good as them?'

—*Detroit Free Press*, May, 1888.

—(2) Medicine is also strangely named *trade* in Rhode Island.

**TRAIL.**—Dodge says that a *trail* is a succession of marks left on the ground or grass by anything moving to a definite end; as, a *trail* of troops, an Indian *trail*, a deer *trail*, a wagon *trail*. Sign is more or less proof positive that something has been present on the ground. A *trail* is made up of "sign"; but "sign" is, by no means, a *trail*. Feeding deer make "sign," but it may be impossible to *trail* them. There may be abundance of sign in and

about an Indian camp; yet it may take the keenest eye and closest scrutiny to detect the *trail* by which they left it.—*See SIGN*.—To **BLIND A TRAIL**; also "To **TRASH A TRAIL**," *i.e.*, to remove the traces of one's actions; a phrase, the figurative meaning of which is evidently traceable to the days of Indian warfare, when even the lives of those engaged often depended upon the success with which they "blinded" or obliterated the traces of their *trail*.—**ON THE TRAIL**.—Cattle, while being driven from one range to another, or to a shipping point for beef, are said to *be on the trail*.

The **TRAIL** work of a cowboy's life is something by itself. The herds may be **ON THE TRAIL** several months, averaging fifteen miles or less a day. The cowboys accompanying each have to undergo much hard toil, of a peculiarly same and wearisome kind, on account of the extreme slowness with which everything must be done, as **TRAIL** cattle should never be hurried. The foreman of a **TRAIL** outfit must be, not only a veteran cowhand, but also a miracle of patience and resolution.—*Century Magazine*, 1887.

**TRAIN.**—In the Dominion of Canada, a sleigh used for transport purposes. From the French *traineau*, a sledge or sleigh. — To **TRAIN**.—New England girls use this term to denote acts of romping, or, to employ an English phrase, which seems its exact equivalent, *to train* is "to carry on."—**TRAINERS**.—Militia when in training.

**TRAMPOOS, To.**—To wander about aimlessly.

**TRANSIENT.**—In hotel and boarding-house parlance, a temporary visitor, as distinguished from a permanent boarder.

**1416** WASHINGTON AVE. — With board, nicely furn. rooms; **TRANSIENT** accommodated.

—*Advertisement in St. Louis Globe Democrat*, 1888.



Bartlett states that a distinction is made between the two classes; but if the following story be true, the difference is unusually marked.

A visitor who has just returned from a vacation among the Maine watering places relates an amusing incident that occurred at a small New England hotel where he chanced to stop for a day while journeying to Bar Harbor. The principal person in charge of the office was the daughter of the proprietor, a buxom lass of probably twenty summers. When the morning of departure came this fair Diana presented the hotel bill to the traveller, and it so happened that neither of them could change a note that was tendered in payment. In a gallant way the traveller smilingly offered to kiss the young lady and let the change go. She drew herself up haughtily. 'I'd like you to know, sir, that in this hotel we don't kiss TRANSIENTS,' she replied in freezing tones. 'Such a privilege is only given to regular boarders. Will you take a prospectus for next season?'—*Detroit Free Press*, Sept. 29, 1888.

**TRASH.**—(1) See POOR WHITES.—

(2) The leaves when stripped from the sugar-cane in order to allow it to ripen more readily.—To TRASH.—To strip the leaves from the sugar-cane. The dead leaves are allowed either to rot on the ground for manure, or, when dried, the *trash* is used as bedding for cattle or thatching for houses.

**TREE, TO.**—To get out of harm's way by taking refuge in a tree. An Americanism which is now generally common in England. Not so, however, TO TREE ONESELF. *i.e.*, to hide behind a tree. To *tree* is also used in the sense of to kill. Game having taken to a refuge of this kind, is practically at the hunter's mercy, and therefore as good as dead.—To BARK UP THE WRONG TREE.—See BARK.—TREE CRANBERRY.—See CRAMP-BARK.—TREE PRIMROSE (*Eriogonum fruticosum*).—A member of a well-known genus which, in America, attains a considerable

size.—TREE MOLASSES and TREE SUGAR.—Products of the sugar maple.

**TREMBLING PRAIRIE.**—See SHAKING PRAIRIE.

**TRICK**, in Arkansas speech, means a number of things—a child, an article, a stratagem, a machine; in fact, it is as hard-worked a word as "thing."

If he was too busy to go to school himself, he never was too busy to drive the little TRICKS over to the school-house, and, every evening, Bulah, the least little TRICK of all, used to teach him what she had learned. Bulah was very fond of Jeff, in a filial way; but Jeff loved Bulah with all his heart and soul and strength.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

—TRICKSY.—This old form is still retained in the popular speech of many parts of the Union.

**TRICUMLEGIS** (Cant).—A quirk or quibble.

**TRIG. TRIGNESS.**—Smart; smart appearance. Obsolete words in England, but still in common use in the Old Dominion. From "to trick," *i.e.*, to decorate.

The descriptions of fifty years ago (of Louisiana) do not need to have a word changed in order to describe the same region as it appears to-day—except as to the TRIGNESS of the houses.—*Mark Twain's Life on the Mississippi*, p. 373.

One of the bifurcations goes on deeper into the swamp, the other deflects toward a clearing wherein, back of cotton-fields and garden, stands a comfortable battened house, the widow Brand's house. A certain TRIG look about land and buildings may be due to the fact—always kept well to the fore—that the widow came from Georgia.—*Scribner's Magazine*, 1887.

**TRIMMINGS.**—In culinary phraseology a generic term for accessories to any dish, such as flavorings, sauces, etc. The word, however, has also

a far more extended application, and is used alike of a woman's frills and furbelows, the trappings of a horse, and the decorations of a house.

**TRIMONTAIN CITY.**—Boston, Mass.—  
See **ATHENS OF AMERICA**.

**TROUT.**—In every section of country the "gamest" fish found is almost invariably *trout*. Thus, in some portions of the Southern States, the *trout* is a black perch. In Texas, and in the Indian territory, to as far north as Canada, the *trout* is a magnificent bass, very like the striped sea bass in appearance. In the Rio Azul of western New Mexico, and in many other pure streams where the real fish does not exist, the *trout* is a dace.

**TRUCK.**—Primarily meaning "stuff," this term is generally understood to denote market produce, which is also called garden-truck and market-truck.

In the entire territory [Colorado] probably twenty-five or fifty bushels of wheat was grown. Beyond this and the garden-truck nothing worth mentioning was raised.—*Field and Farm*, 1888.

—Hence **TRUCK-PATCH**.—A plot of ground devoted to the raising of vegetables.—**TRUCK**, **TRUCKMEN**, and **TRUCKAGE**, are synonymous in New England with cart, cart-man, and cartage as used elsewhere.—**POOR TRUCK**.—A contemptuous expression in the South for any person or thing of weak character or inferior quality.

**TRUMPETER SWAN** (*Cygnus buccinator*).—They are as white as snow, and measure about seven feet from tip to tip of wing. The range of this magnificent bird is chiefly from the Mississippi valley, extending north-

ward as far as the Pacific. It is found in Canada at Hudson's Bay, and occasionally on the Atlantic coast. It breeds from Iowa and Dakota north. They winter in the waters south of the gulf. They fly principally at night, and take their name from the trumpet tones with which they call to each other.

**TRUNT** (Cant).—The nose.

**TRUSTS.**—Combinations made for the purpose of concentrating and controlling the manufacture and sale of various articles of necessity. This is the latest dodge of monopolists, and is only another name for systematic robbery. So notorious is it that *trusts* place people at the mercy of a few unscrupulous men that a call has been made for investigation into their methods of doing business. The iniquity of these transactions will be readily understood when it is remembered that a *trust* is not organized alone to increase the price of the article of its production to the consumer, but also to decrease the price of the articles which the *trust* has to purchase. They purchase everything, transportation included, at prices far less than any of their competitors, and they force all holders of their necessities, including the railroad companies, to sell at the price fixed by the *trust*. The Sugar *Trust*, for instance, cannot only raise the price of sugar to the consumer, but it can reduce the price of the raw material to the producer. They monopolize not only the selling, but the purchasing of sugar.

**T. T.**—Too thin; an abbreviation used both in writing and spelling, concerning matters thought to be doubtful in character. A palpable attempt to deceive would be des-

cribed as *T.T.*, i.e., too transparent to impose upon one.

**TUCKAHOE.**—A variety of truffle which grows in Virginia, and which is also known as **INDIAN BREAD** and **INDIAN LOAF**.

It is a natural production, the origin of which has greatly perplexed naturalists, as it is commonly found several feet under the surface, and, like the truffle of Europe, has apparently no stem or leafy appendage connecting it with the external atmosphere. They are generally found through the instrumentality of hogs, whose acute sense of smelling enables them to fix upon the spot where they lie buried. They are usually of a globular or flattened oval shape, and rather regular surface, the large ones resembling somewhat a brown loaf of coarse bread. The size varies from an acorn to the bigness of a man's head.—*Farmer's Encyclopedia*.

**TUCK AND NIP.**—The same as **NIP** and **TUCK** (*q.v.*).

**TUCKERED OUT.**—Wearied; tired out; fatigued. This colloquialism, though most common in New England, must yet be regarded as part of the popular speech of all Americans.

'You look clean **TUCKERED OUT**!' remarked the ex-guide. 'Wouldn't you like to have a drop o' tea sent up to your room? The sun's been too much for you, I guess. That boy o' yours had oughter take better care o' you.'—*New York Herald*, July 21, 1888.

**TUCKET.**—The young green ear of Indian corn. Gathered when soft, and cooked in milk, the dish, though wasteful, is esteemed a great delicacy.

**TUG.**—A name given to peat.

**TULAR.**—A marsh covered with the reed-like **TULE** (*q.v.*); these are common in Texas and California, and are sometimes simply called **TULES**.

The up-stage was stopped at Granger's; the last mail had been abandoned in the **TULES**, the rider swimming for his life. 'An area,' remarked the Sierra Avalanche, with pensive local pride, 'as large as the State of Massachusetts is now under water.'—*Bret Hart's How Santa Claus came to Simpson's Bar*.

**TULE** (*Scirpus lacustris*).—A reed-like grass or bulrush, widely spread over all the South-western States. The name is Mexican.

**TULIP-TREE** (*Liriodendron tulipifera*).—A tree bearing large, tulip-shaped flowers, whence its name. It is also called **WHITE-WOOD**, and in the South **POPLAR**.

The mantelpiece was commonplace enough, of poplar wood—that is, **TULIP-TREE**—painted brown. The paint while fresh had been scratched in rhythmical waves with a common coarse comb. This graining was supposed to resemble the grain of some wood yet undiscovered.—*Century Magazine*, 1887.

**TUMBLE.**—In Connecticut a hay-cock. —**TUMBLE BUG** (*Canthon lolvis*).—A common insect known also as the **DUNG BEETLE**, and in England as the **STRADDLE BOB**. —**TUMBLE WEED**, otherwise **ROLLING WEED**. One of the globular perennials of the plains, which, when dead, is pulled up by the wind, and goes rolling over the plains at the mercy of the blast.

**TUMP, TO.**—In Maine to drag home game. —**TUMLINE.**—A contrivance also peculiar to the State of Maine, consisting of a strap so placed across the forehead as to assist in carrying a pack upon the back. This practice is said to have been derived from the Indians.

**TUNA** (*Cactus opuntia*).—The Spanish name of the **PRICKLY PEAR** or **INDIAN FIG** (*q.v.*). A pleasant beverage made from this fruit bears the same name.



**TUNK.**—An English provincialism, denoting a blow with the fist; it is colloquial in New England.

**TUPELO.**—See PEPPERIDGE.

**TURFMAN.**—A racing man; a turfite. Literally one who is always on the turf.

**TURKEY.**—**TURKEY BUZZARD** (*Cathartes aura*).—An American vulture, the compound popular name of which is therefore a misnomer. There is a slight resemblance, however, between this bird and the turkey.

—**TURKEY-CORN.**—See CORN.

**MARBLE-HEAD TURKEY.**—A Massachusetts' term for the cod-fish.

**NEVER SAID TURKEY.**—This phrase is applied to persons lacking in hospitality, or who make unfair division of spoils. It had its rise in a story illustrative of the greed and rapacity shown by white men in their dealings with the Indians.

—**TO TALK TURKEY.**—To indulge in grandiloquent periods; to use high-sounding words, when plain English would do equally well or better. An allusion to the manner in which the male bird spreads and plumes itself.

'What the devil does locum tenens mean, Tim?' he asked all in a puzzle.

'Don't you know that, John?' replied the New York statesman, with a touch of pity in his voice. 'Why, that's **TURKEY** for *pro tem.*, of course.'—*Washington Critic*, 1888.

—**TO WALK TURKEY.**—To strut; and, idiomatically, to be unsteady in gait.

Out on the bar the north wind commenced to make the Yaquina **WALK TURKEY**, standing her up on either end alternately and rolling her both ways at once. There was a girl in tears on leaving the wharf, whose emotion was due to leaving her mother. When the Yaquina's movements got in her deadly work, she was willing to sacrifice every relative and friend she had in the world should her life be spared. She lived, and the gulls

waxed fat.—*San Francisco Weekly Examiner*, March 22, 1888.

**TURNED ROUND.**—Few persons with any knowledge of geography or of the points of the compass, have travelled at all without having at some time experienced the curious sensation of being *turned round*, i.e., been in doubt as to one's whereabouts.

A man is going up the Hudson River in a steam-boat, and walking from the cabin to the guards, finds himself apparently going down the river. A traveller looks from his book or paper out of a car window, and finds to his disgust that he seems to be going back towards his starting point. . . . No power of mind or will can change this feeling, which, however, generally goes off by itself after awhile, as mysteriously and with as little cause as it came. It does not always go off, and a wrong impression once made may cling through life; as to me, Detroit is always in Canada, and New Orleans always on the right bank of the Mississippi, because I happened to be **TURNED ROUND** when I first arrived in those cities. Under such curious circumstances the features of the best known localities become strange; everything looks different from what it ought to look. This is getting lost in the plains sense.—*Richard Irvine Dodge's Plains of the Great West*.

**TURNER.**—A gymnast. From the German.

**TURN OF MEAL.**—In Tennessee, the quantity of corn sent at one time to the mill is termed a *turn of meal*.

**TURNSTONE** (*Streptopelia interpres*).—A bird which is also known under the names of **CALICO BACK**, **HORSE FOOT**, and **BRANT BIRD**.

**TURPENTINE STATE.**—North Carolina, the extensive pine-forests of this State having given rise to the sobriquet.—See also **TARHEEL**.

**TWICE-LAID.**—Food prepared for table a second time.

**TWICE-LAID** dishes I can stand; salt fish and corn beef **TWICE-LAID** I sometimes con-

salt it as good as when it was first cooked.  
—*Sam Slick's Wise Saws*, p. 12.

**TWINBERRY.**—The PARTRIDGE BERRY  
(*q.v.*).

**TWINS.**—To HAVE TWINS is a common expression in New England for taking dinner and tea together.

**TWISTICAL.**—One is *twistical* when possessed of oblique moral vision; unfair; not straightforward.

**TWITCH, To.**—Among Maine lumbermen, to drag timber by means of a chain.

**TWO-FORTY.**—To go at *two forty*, or at *two forty pace*, is to proceed at a high rate of speed. The allusion is to the record pace at trotting matches, at one time a mile in two minutes forty seconds being considered very good. Now the speed attained is much higher.

**TWO PIPE SCATTER GUN.**—A double-barrelled rifle.

**TYPO.**—A compositor. A printer's abbreviation of "typographer." The equivalent in English printing-offices is "comp."





**UMBRELLA-TREE** (*Magnolia tripetala*). — So named from its resemblance to an umbrella, the leaves radiating from the end of the branches to a distance of three

feet in diameter. A native of the South.

**UN.**—A corruption of "one," and curiously used in conjunction with personal pronouns in some parts of the Union, especially among the natives of the State of Indiana.—*See HOOSIER.*

'Who be you'un?'

I told him.

'Oh, yes,' he replied as he held out his hand. 'So you'un is he'un, be it? Glad to see you. We'uns hev all heard of you'un.'  
—*Detroit Free Press*, September 29, 1888.

**UNBLEACHED AMERICAN.**—A negro. For a full list of synonymous terms, *see COLORED.*

**UNCLE.**—A familiar title for a negro, as aunt is for a negress. Both these terms are mainly confined to elderly black people.—**YOUR UNCLE.**—One's self, *e.g.*, "Did you do that? *Your uncle* did," *i.e.*, I did.—**UNCLE SAM.**—A nickname given to the American people as a whole, or to the United States Government as representing the American nation. Its origin is thus related:—

Immediately after the last declaration of war with England, Elbert Anderson, of New York, then a contractor, visited Troy on the Hudson, where was concentrated, and where he purchased, a large quantity of provisions, beef, pork, etc. The inspectors of these articles at that place were Messrs. Ebenezer and Samuel Wilson. The latter gentleman (invariably known as **UNCLE SAM**) generally superintended in person a large number of workmen, who, on this occasion, were employed in overhauling the provisions purchased by the contractor for the army. The casks were marked 'E. A.—U. S.' This work fell to the lot of a facetious fellow in the employ of the Messrs. Wilson, who, on being asked by some of his fellow-workmen the meaning of the mark (for the letters U. S., for United States, were then almost entirely new to them), said, he did not know, unless it meant Elbert Anderson and **UNCLE SAM**—alluding exclusively, then, to the said **UNCLE SAM** Wilson. The joke took among the workmen, and passed currently; and **UNCLE SAM** himself being present, was occasionally rallied by them on the increasing extent of his possessions. Many of these workmen, being of a character denominated as food for powder, were found, shortly after, following the recruiting drum, and pushing toward the frontier lines, for the double purpose of meeting the enemy and of eating the provisions they had lately labored to put in good order. Their old jokes accompanied them, and before the first campaign ended this identical one first appeared in print: it gained favor rapidly, till it penetrated and was recognized in every part of the country, and will no doubt continue so while the United States remain a nation.—*Frost's Naval History of the United States.*

—**UNCLE SAM'S CRIB.**—The Treasury of the United States.

**UNDER-BIT.**—A mark used in branding cattle.—*See BRAND.*

**UNDER-COAT.**—In North Carolina a petticoat. Compare with **COAT.**



**UNDERGROUND RAILROAD.**—This term, no longer of exclusive meaning, was, before the abolition of slavery, applied to a very energetic organization for enabling slaves to escape to the Free States or Canada.

**UNDER-HACK.**—A cattle mark.—*See* BRAND.

**UNDER HEW.**—A term which, as applied to timber in Pennsylvania, is explained by Haldemann to denote a piece of timber which should be square to come up to measure, but which has been hewn in such a manner that, while it looks full size, it really does not hold the requisite number of cubic feet.

**UNDISGRUNTLED.**—*See* DISGRUNTLED.

**UNESCAPABLE.**—Not to be escaped. A factitious form; as also is

**UNFELLOWSHIPED.**—Lacking, or debarred from Church fellowship or social recognition.

**UNHOUSE, To.**—To render homeless.

The cyclone that visited Mount Vernon, Illinois, yesterday afternoon, at five o'clock, destroyed nearly three hundred residences and places of business, and UNHOUSED from 1,200 to 1,500 people. In the fall of the walls many persons were buried under the débris, and thirty-five were killed, while twice as many more were injured, eight or ten so seriously that their recovery is doubtful.—*Montreal Herald*, February 21, 1888.

**UNICORN (Cant).**—A band of two men and one woman, or *vice versa*, who work together in a thieving partnership.

**UNION.**—The Confederacy of States known as the United States of North America.—**UNION MEN.**—Those who, at the time of the Civil War, stood out against secession.

**UNIVERSANIMUS.**—This is supposed to be an invention of J. Russell Lowell's. It means, if anything at all, a more complete agreement than is expressed by its more simple and orthodox congener "unanimous."

**UNLAUNDERED.**—Undressed, *i.e.*, as applied, for example, to shirts.

**UP AND DUST!**—Look alive! be quick! make the dust fly!—**UP COUNTRY.**—The interior or BACKWOODS (*q.v.*).—**UPLAND COTTON.**—*See* COTTON.—**UPPER HOUSE.**—The Senate as distinct from the House of Representatives. The Senate is National or State. First used officially in Massachusetts in 1718. (See Drake's *History of Boston*, p. 558.) "Lower House," as applied to the more popular branch of legislature, originated at the same time.—**UPPER TENDOM.**—The fashionable world.

**UPRIGHT.**—In Western parlance, a leg. An idiotic perversion of words.

**UP-TOWN.**—The fashionable quarter of American cities.—*See* DOWN TOWN.

An honored guest at one of the UP-TOWN hotels recently, was a portly and dignified old lady. She was dressed in rustling black silk and a stiff white cap, and even the clerk was awed by her presence and conversation.—*American Humorist*, 1888.

**USABLE.**—Capable of being used. Of American birth, this word has made its way into colloquial use in England.

**U. S. PLATE (Cant).**—Fetters or handcuffs.

**UXORICIDE.**—Wife murder. A new form on the model of parricide, matricide, etc., etc.

**UXORICIDE AND SUICIDE.**—Peter O'Neil kills his wife and then sends a bullet into his own brain—the murderer still alive.—*Pittsburg Times*, February 8, 1888.





**VACHER.**—A herdsman or cow-boy, to both of which terms it has largely given way. From the French.

**VALEDICTORIAN.**—The student of a college who pronounces the valedictory oration at the annual commencement.—*Webster*.

**VALLEY.**—In New England a *valley* becomes a "gulch"; or in the West a "hollow."

**VAMOOSE, VAMOS, VAMOSE, TO.**—A true Americanism signifying "to go," and of the same order as **SKE-DADDLE** and **ABSQUATULATE**. Derived in the first instance from the Spanish imperative *vamos*, let us go, *vamos* has passed into the general speech of the American people.

A couple of Mexicans had robbed Mike Dorsey's cabin and **VAMOS**.—*American Humorist*, Sept. 1, 1888.

—To **VAMOSE THE RANCH**, is "to clear out," though, in Spanish, it is a familiar, conversational interjection, as "well, come now."

**VAQUERO.**—A cow-boy or herdsman. An equivalent, from the Spanish, of the French *vacher*.

**VARA.**—A Spanish lineal measure, equal to thirty-nine inches. Occasionally heard in California.

**VARIETY STORE.**—A general store; a bazaar.

**VEGETABLE.**—**VEGETABLE IVORY.**—*See* **IVORY NUT.**—**VEGETABLE MARROW.**—Also called the **ALLIGATOR PEAR** (*q.v.*).—**VEGETABLE OYSTER.**—The salsify. Also called **OYSTER-PLANT**.

**VENDIBILITY.**—The quality of being saleable.

**VENDUE.**—(1) (French *vendu* sold).—A shameless assignment of offices to the highest bidders. In a non-political sense the word was used as early as 1754 in Pennsylvania (*Mittelberger's Travels*, p. 22). *Polit. Americanisms*.—(2) Also colloquial in the West Indies for an auction sale.

**VENT.**—A cattle brand.—*See* **BRAND**.

**VENTILATE, TO.**—Except in the application of this verb to persons, there is nothing specially American in the use of *ventilate*, meaning to make known.

**VERTICAL SAW.**—An outrageous joke; a dangerous piece of horse-play.

**VEST.**—**PULL DOWN YOUR VEST.**—Pull yourself together. A street catch-phrase, originating, no one knows when; employed indiscriminately, and, in the lips of most persons, of doubtful meaning, being a phrase and nothing more.



**VETERAN.**—A soldier who, having during the Civil War (which lasted seven years) served the period for which he originally enlisted, enlisted again. The result was that there were many thousands of youthful veterans, if such a misnomer is permissible. —To VETERANIZE.—To make veteran soldiers by the process aforesaid.

**VICTUALLING OFFICE** (Cant). — The stomach.

**VIGILANCE COMMITTEE VIGILANTES.**—A body of persons who, when judges are intimidated, juries partial and guilty of the same crimes as those they are called upon to condemn, band themselves together to detect and punish criminals. Closely allied to LYNCH LAW (*q.v.*).

**VIM.**—Spirit; energy; activity.

While the children were at supper the grown folks were given a turn at dancing. After supper the children resumed the floor and danced with renewed vim for an hour or so, when they were borne away happy, contented, tired, and drowsy, to go over in their dreams the happy hours just passed.—*Missouri Republican*, March 5, 1888.

**VINEYARDIST.**—The cultivator of a vineyard. One of the new forms based on a now familiar model.

**VIRGIN DIP.**—The flow of turpentine from pine trees during the first year of cutting.

**VIRGINIA POKE.**—Explained by quotation.

Dave cursed his infernal luck, as he called it, and when the twelfth round left Tom about a dollar ahead, he gave the cards a VIRGINIA POKE whenever it came his turn to cut them; that is to say, he pushed one card out of the middle of the pack, and put it at the back. By this means Dave proposed to change the luck, as he said; but George Lockwood, who looked over Dave's shoulder, was not for a minute deceived by this manoeuvre. He knew that this affectation of

a superstition about luck and the efficiency of poking the cards was only a blind to cover from inept eyes the real sleight by which Dave, when he chose, could deal himself strong hands. Even the VIRGINIA POKE did not immediately bring a change, and when Tom had won a dozen games more than Dave, and so was a dollar and a half ahead, and had got his pulses well warmed up, Dave manifested great vexation, and asked Grayson to increase the stakes to half a dollar, so as to give him a chance.—*The Century*, 1887.

—VIRGINIA REEL.—The country dance as known in England.

**VITAL STATISTICS.**—The announcements of births, deaths, and marriages.

The registrar of VITAL STATISTICS' report for January shows four births, eleven marriages, and thirty-four deaths.—*Troy Daily Times*, February 8, 1888.

**VLY.**—A Dutch survival in New York for a marsh or swamp.

**VOODOUISM.**—Superstitious observances, practised by the negroes in secret. In Hayti and San Domingo, these barbarous rites are said to be accompanied by human sacrifices.

**VOWEL!** (Cant). — Give your note! *i.e.*, an I.O.U.

**VOYAGEUR.**—A French-Canadian term for a boatman.

**VUM.**—I VUM.—I swear. A New England euphemistic oath.

But the deacon swore (as deacons do, With an 'I DEW VUM,' or an 'I tell yeou')— He would build one shay to beat the taown 'N' the keounty 'n' the kentry raoun'; It should be built so that it couldn't break daown;

'Fur,' said the deacon, 'tis mighty plain Thut the weakes' place mus' stan' the strain;

'N' they way 't' fix it, us I maintain, Is only jest

To make that place uz strong uz the rest.' —*Oliver Wendell Holmes' The Wonderful One-Hoss Shay.*



**WABASH, To.**—To cheat. This term, though undoubtedly of Indian origin, is uncertain in derivation.

**WABBLE, To.**—To clatter with the tongue; to be given to excessive talking. Western.

**WAD.**—A slang term for money.—*See* CHARM.

**WAGGED OUT.**—A Massachusetts term for tired out; exhausted.

**WAGGLETAIL.**—The lava of the mosquito. A variant is WRIGGLER.

**WAGON, To.**—To convey or transport by wagon.

**WAIN.**—A wagon. This Old English term is still colloquial in America.

**WAIT-A-BIT TREES.**—A facetious term given to a kind of bush. The derivation is obvious from the following quotation:—

This bush generally puts a prompt quietus on the most sanguine temperament. It stands thick as hair on a dog's back, about twelve feet high, the straight stems from the size of a pipe stem to two inches in diameter. Lateral branches spring out from every stem so thickly as to make a jungle almost impenetrable even of themselves; and when each is armed with innumerable thorns, bent like fish-hooks, sharp as needles, and strong and tough as steel, it will readily be seen that

hunting in such a thicket is no sport.—*Richard Irvine Dodge's Plains of the Great West.*

**WAIT UPON, To.**—To court; to pay attention with a view to matrimony.

**WALK.**—To TAKE A WALK.—A euphemism signifying dismissal. Employés take a walk not to return to their duties when dismissed.

Some time ago Tascott worked for Berry, the confectioner, dispensing soda water from one of his numerous fountains on West Madison Street. The fruit syrups and the mineral water disappeared with an alarming alacrity, but the cash returns were so out of proportion to the sales, that Mr. Berry concluded to make a change and Tascott took a WALK.—*Chicago Herald*, 1888.

—WALKING PAPERS OR WALKING TICKET.—Letters of dismissal, and generally employed with a political bearing.—*See* BEHEAD and DECAPITATE. — WALKIST. — This villainous form denotes a professional pedestrian.—WALK OUT. —A strike.

The WALK OUT of brewery employés, decided upon at last night's meeting of the union, was considerable of a fizzle. Less than thirty men left their work. At Yung and Borchert's brewery, where eighty men are employed, all but seven agreed to forsake the union and remain at work.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*, 1888.

**WALL STREET.**—A thoroughfare in name and something more—the financial centre of the mercantile finance of the United States. It is the Stock Exchange of New York, and dates back to 1653.

deriving its name from the wall or defence erected by the Dutch as a protection against the inroads of the aborigines. From the beginning it was the scene of a lively trade, at first with the red man, its merchants gradually extending the area of their operations, until now it ranks with any of the great European Bourses. From 1835 onwards it has been the centre of speculative finance.

**WALT.**—Lop-sided; said of ships with a list.

**WALTZING GIANTS.**—A Nevada term for a curious species of sand-storm. Great cylinders of sand, from eight to twenty feet in diameter, go rearing across the desert with a whirling, waltzing motion that is very graceful. Often there will be one big column, with a lot of little columns attending it. The effect is the strangest thing imaginable. They are never seen except in the summer time, and they are most frequent in July. They have their beginning in some incipient whirlwind, which snatches up a handful of sand while the surrounding air is still, and then they keep on growing and moving onward. They are not like the cyclones of the East, for they move with very little noise, and, instead of being funnel-shaped, are of the same size from top to bottom. The motion is the same, being both circular and advancing. They draw up into the cylinder fabulous quantities of sand, tons of sage brush, and sometimes good-sized stones.—*Portland Transcript*, March 7, 1888.

**WAMBLE-CROPPED.**—A curious New England phrase for sickness at the stomach. Its meaning has been idiomatically extended to convey the idea of abasement and humiliation.

**WAME** (Cant).—The stomach.

**WAMPUM.**—An inferior Indian shell currency.—*See* COHOG.

**WAPATOO.**—(*Sagittaria variabilis*).—An Oregon Indian name for this bulb, which is used by these red-skins as an article of food.

**WAPITI** (*Cervus canadensis*).—A Cree Indian name for the American elk.

**WARB.**—A song.—To WARBLE MANY WARBS.—A slang expression.

**WAR CRIES.**—The presidential campaign of 1884 saw the introduction of a species of political *war-cry* not previously in vogue. It was based on the well-known habit of drill-sergeants in marking time for a squad of recruits, to enable them to march in step. He calls out as the respective feet touch the ground, "Left—left—left—right—left!" the pauses between Nos. 1, 2, and 3, being twice as long as those between 3, 4, and 5. It is believed that the idea of calling out "Blaine—Blaine—James—G—Blaine," in this cadenced measure, originated in a Republican meeting in New York, where in a pause between speeches, a party of Columbia College students began stamping in cadence after the manner of the "gallery gods," during too long an intermission at the play. Some one started the Blaine cry, the idea took instantly, the whole assembly followed suit, and when the meeting was over, the crowd formed an impromptu procession, and marched in step to its own music. These *war-cries* proved a conspicuous feature of the campaign. Both parties invented five-footed sentences and distiches, and the *esprit* of great processions everywhere was increased tenfold by



these cadenced sing-song cries, which almost compelled men to march in step, and kept up the excitement as nothing else could have done. They even assumed a threatening character during the days immediately following the election, when the result was still in doubt, and might easily have become *war-cries* in earnest had the suspense continued a little while longer. During this campaign, too, the peculiar student cheer (Rah—Rah—Rah), instead of the old time and more formal "Hurrah," repeated three times, was for the first time generally used in political ranks. So, too, was the custom, also borrowed from the colleges, of spelling some catch-word in unison, as for instance, "S O A P!" The separate letters were pronounced in perfect time by several hundred voices at once.—*Political Americanisms*. — **WAR HORSE**. — A term likely to be applied to any energetic political worker. It is used derisively as well as in an honorable sense. The combinations in which this occurs are too numerous for specification, but one may be cited as peculiarly effective phonetically: "The *war horse* of the Shawangunk" (pronounced "Shongum," a range of mountains in Northern New Jersey).—**TO GO ON THE WAR-PATH**.—To attack; to be in fighting mood. A phrase derived from Indian warfare.

**WASHER LADY**.—A washerwoman.—*See* LADY.

Walking down Broadway, one sees a wealth of dress stuffs and colors, but there are the same monotonous effects of corset and bustle on every woman one meets, from the elegant dame of wealth and leisure, who cheerfully pays two or three hundred dollars for her walking dress, to the daughter of the WASHER LADY, who makes her own dresses by the aid of a cut paper pattern, and a monstrous and unnatural figure of a woman in the latest style fashion journal.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, February 13, 1888.

**WASHOE ZEPHYR**.—The *Washoe Zephyr* (Washoe is a pet nickname for Nevada) is a peculiarly scriptural wind, in that no man knoweth "whence it cometh." That is to say, where it originates. It comes right over the mountains from the West, but when one crosses the ridge he does not find any of it on the other side! It probably is manufactured on the mountain-top for the occasion, and starts from there. It is a pretty regular wind in the summer time. Its office hours are from two in the afternoon till two the next morning; and anybody venturing abroad during those twelve hours needs to allow for the wind or he will bring up a mile or two to leeward of the point he is aiming at. And yet the first complaint a Washoe visitor to San Francisco makes, is that the sea winds blow so there! There is a good deal of human nature in that.—*Mark Twain*.

**WASHOUTS**.—Floods are so called in popular parlance.

Extensive WASHOUTS near Kansas City, Mo., have caused railway trains to be delayed since Friday.—*New York Herald*, March 27, 1888.

**WASTAGE**.—The drippings of a barrel, box, or other package.

**WATCH OUT, TO**.—In Pennsylvania, this idiom is the equivalent of "to look out."

**WATER**.—**WATER DOGS**.—In the West **SALAMANDERS** (*q.v.*) are so named. — **WATER LOT**.—A building lot over which water has taken a heavy mortgage. In some cases fraudulent speculators have even sold to unwary victims plots of land situated several hundred yards out at sea, and on inspection jeering bystanders have offered the

poor consolation that the sea was receding from the land at the rate of so many feet in a century!—

WATER OATS.—CANADA RICE (*q.v.*).

—WATER PRIVILEGE.—The advantage of a water-fall in streams sufficient to raise water for driving water-wheels, or a place affording such advantage.—WATER PUPPIES.—The same as GROUND PUPPIES.—WATERSPOUTS.—Dodge thus describes the American usage as regards this word:—

Almost all positions of the high plains are occasionally visited by most terrific rain-storms, so severe that they have the general name WATERSPOUTS. The quantity of water poured from the clouds, and the effect produced, are so apparently incredible that I would hesitate to describe them but that the facts are perfectly known to every plainsman. These storms generally occur in the afternoon of a sultry day, and, in gathering and coming up, have all the appearance of an ordinary thunderstorm. The rain, however, does not fall in drops, but in streams as if poured from the strainer of a shower bath. As the myriads of streams are caught by the wind and deflected from their direct course, they present an appearance of sheets or waves of water, and form in the air thousands of mimic cascades of every conceivable variety; now falling in a smooth, unbroken, inclined sheet, now flying into an infinity of jets, down or up, or sideways, as if fretted by opposing rocks. Nothing can be more beautiful or more disagreeable than these storms; and when the deluge of rain is, as is often the case, accompanied by huge rounded lumps and shapeless chunks of ice, they become really very serious.

WATER-WITCH.—(1) A dowser; a diviner of the presence of water by means of the divining rod.

WAVING THE BLOODY SHIRT.—  
See BLOODY SHIRT.

WAX, TO.—To overcome difficulties, or to obtain an advantage by diplomatic measures.—WAX-MYRTLE.—This is generally called the CANDLE-BERRY MYRTLE, candles being made from the wax it supplies.—WAX-PLANT (*Mono-*

*tropa uniflora*).—This is more generally known as the INDIAN PIPE (*q.v.*).

WAY.—A corruption of "away," which is frequently heard, *e.g.*, "He comes from way back."—WAY-FARING TREE (*Viburnum cantanoides*).—A straggling shrub, other popular names for which are TANGLE-LEGS and HOBBLE-BUSH.—WAY-UP SPREAD.—A good feast; something superlative in the matter of eating and drinking.

WEAKEN, TO, *i.e.*, to grow weak; to abandon an undertaking; to give way. A phrase much in vogue in the newspapers of the day.

The *Chicago Tribune* has for weeks begged Blaine to recant. It has gone so far as to outline a little talk that he ought to make. But the gentleman from Maine still carries an obdurate heart and a stiff neck. If there is any WEAKENING it must be on the part of the *Tribune*.—*Dallas News*, 1888.

These men (bullies or bad men) are, of course, used to brawling, and are not only sure shots, but, what is equally important, able to draw their weapons with marvellous quickness. They think nothing whatever of murder, and are the dread and terror of their associates; yet they are very chary of taking the life of a man of good standing, and will often WEAKEN and back down at once if confronted fearlessly. With many of them their courage arises from confidence in their own powers and knowledge of the fear in which they are held.—*Ranch Life in the Far West*.

WEAK FISH.—The SQUETEAGUE (*q.v.*).

WEAK SISTER.—An unreliable person.

WEAR.—To wear a name; a facetious manner of stating one's name. "I wear the name of So-and-so."

Then I said aloud, in a firm voice, 'Father, I cannot, cannot WEAR the name of Samuel.'—*Mark Twain's Screammers*.

—TO WEAR THE COLLAR.—To be subject to control.

**WEARABLES.**—Clothes; wearing apparel.

**WEATHER-STRIPS.**—Sandbags; draught-excluders.

**WEATHER-STRIPS** in felt and rubber, to keep out cold and dust; for sale, wholesale and retail, by the Roberts' Hardware Company, 1640 and 1642, Larimer-street.—*Advt. in Denver Republican*, 1888.

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.**—Americans have somewhat fancifully amplified the idea contained in the celebration of silver and golden weddings. The following list will show to what extremes this pleasing fancy has been carried.

At the end of the first year comes the cotton wedding. At two years comes the paper. At three the leather. At the close of five comes the wooden. At the close of seven the friends assemble at the woollen. At ten comes the tin. At twelve the silken and the fine linen. At fifteen the crystal wedding. At twenty the friends gather with the china. At twenty-five the married couple, who have been true to their vows for a quarter of a century, are rewarded with silver gifts. From this period forward the tokens of esteem become rapidly more valuable. When the thirtieth anniversary is reached they are presented with pearls. At the fortieth come rubies. At the fiftieth occurs the golden wedding. Beyond that time the aged couple are allowed to enjoy their many gifts in peace. If, however, by any possibility they should reach their seventy-fifth anniversary, they are presented with the rarest gifts to be obtained at the celebration of their diamond wedding.

**WEDGES.**—To KNOCK OUT THE WEDGES.

—See under KNOCKDOWN.—**MAUL AND WEDGES.**—See under MAUL.

—**WEDGE TENT.**—A common shaped tent, similar to the *tente d'abri* of the French.

**WEEDING** (Cant).—Taking a part and leaving the balance in such a manner as not to excite suspicion. When a thief abstracts a portion from the plunder without the knowledge of his pals, and then receives an equal proportion of the remain-

der, it is called **WEEDING THE SWAG**.

**WELL!**—(1) The American use of this conversational interjection receives a flood of light from Mr. Lowell, who says in his introduction to the *Biglow Papers* :—

Put before such a phrase as 'How d'e do?' it is commonly short, and has the sound of *wul*, but in reply it is deliberative, and the various shades of meaning which can be conveyed by difference of intonation, and by prolonging or abbreviating, I should vainly attempt to describe. I have heard *ooa-ahl*, *wahl*, *ahl*, *wal*, and something nearly approaching the sound of the *le* in *able*. Sometimes before I it dwindles to a mere *l*, as 'I dunno. A friend of mine told me that he once heard five **WELLS**, like pioneers, precede the answer to an inquiry about the price of land. The first was the ordinary *wul*, in deference to custom; the second, the long perpending *ooahl*, with a falling inflection of the voice; the third, the same, but with a voice rising, as if in despair of a conclusion, into a plaintively nasal whine; the fourth, *wulh*, ending in the aspirate of a sigh; and then, fifth, came a short, sharp *wal*, showing that a conclusion had been reached.

—(2) A vulgarism for healthy.

Many men invariably express surprise upon seeing General Terry that his health should ever have been made the subject of newspaper comment, for his appearance is that of a perfectly **WELL** man.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, February 3, 1888.

—**TO LIVE WELL.**—In New England to be good humoredly drunk—in that state when everything is of a roseate hue.

**WE-MEN.**—The fierce military spirit of the South was shown in the scorn and contempt which they heaped on men who refused to go out to battle. In Texas they were called, with a play on the word, *women* (in the South often pronounced *weemen*), and a hint at their former gasconade as to what *we* could do—*we-men*. Some boasted that one Southerner could *whale* ten Yankees,



**WENCH.**—A word only used of negroes.

**WENDIGO.**—A term denoting a hobgoblin among the Northern Indians.

**WENT.**—LET HER WENT!—A slang expression indicative of surrender and abandonment—Let it go!

**WEROWANCE.**—A chief of the Indian tribes of Virginia and Maryland.

**WESAND (Cant).**—The throat.

**WEST.**—A rough-and-ready popular territorial division embracing that part of the Union lying beyond the States of Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Carolina, as far as the Pacific littoral. Variants are *Far West*, *Great West*, *Wild West*—a country of almost boundless extent and enormous capabilities. —**WESTERNER.**—A native of, or resident in the Western States of the Union. —**WESTERN RESERVE.**—A name formerly given to a tract of country reserved by the State of Connecticut, at the time of the cession of the North-west Territory to the United States. In 1800, jurisdiction over this tract was relinquished to the Federal Government, the State reserving the right to the soil and disposing of it in small lots to settlers (from which sales were obtained its magnificent school-fund), while the Indian titles to the rest of the soil were bought up by the General Government. —*Wheeler's Dictionary.* —**WEST POINTER.**—A cadet at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point—an establishment answering to Sandhurst and the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich in England.

**WET.**—To VOTE or GO WET (or DRY, *q.v.*).—To vote against prohibition in the licensing question.

In Missouri eighty-two counties and twenty towns have voted on the licence question; forty-nine counties have voted WET, and thirty-three dry. Thirteen of the twenty towns went dry, and seven WET.—*The American*, 1888.

The repeated contests in Atlanta have had the effect of dividing the regular party men, and of making the black vote an important factor, a power most earnestly to be sought by both WETS and drys.—*Philadelphia Bulletin*, February 27, 1888.

—**WET DIGGINGS.**—A miner's term for diggings situated near a river.

**WHALE AWAY, TO.**—To talk without let or hindrance, with force and vigor to boot. —**WHALER.**—A big strapping fellow, or an event or object of imposing proportions.

**WHAP-OVER, TO.**—A New England expression, signifying to overturn with violence; to knock over.

**WHAPPER, JAW.**—See JIMBER JAW.

**WHARF BOAT.**—On the Western rivers, the height of the water is so variable that a fixed wharf would be useless. In its place is used a rectangular float, in part covered, for the reception of goods, or for a dram-shop. It is generally aground on the shore side, and is entered by a plank or movable platform. This is a *wharf boat*.—*Bartlett.* —**TO WHARF-UP.**—In New England to embark; to pile up earth.

**WHAT FOR A.**—What kind of a. This idiom, which is peculiar to the PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH (*q.v.*), is a literal translation of the German *Was fur ein*.

**WHEAL, TO.**—To swell; to pout. An obvious relation exists between this idiom and the weals or swellings raised by beating.

**WHEAT AND INDIAN.**—A mixture of wheaten flour and maize meal.

**WHEATON, To.**—A West Point cadet's colloquialism for "to malingering" or "to pretend sickness." Dr. Wheaton was once the resident physician at the Academy.

**WHEEL.** — **WHEELBARROW - BOAT.** — **A STERN-WHEEL BOAT** (*q.v.*). — **WHEEL HORSE.**—A crony; an intimate friend; or a leading man. This Western term is directly traceable to the almost reverential esteem in which horses are held. The phrase is an everyday colloquialism, both politically and socially. — **TO GREASE THE WHEELS.** — To find the where-withal (generally money) for carrying out an undertaking.

**WHELK.**—A synonym for a wale, a sore, a swelling, and a pustule.

**WHIFFET.**—A small insignificant man; a whipper-snapper.

Mr. Henpeck (a very small man)—'What shall I get up on that chair for, Mirandy?'  
Mrs. Henpeck (very large and masculine)—'Get up on that chair, you insignificant little WHIFFET, so I can box your ears without having to stoop over. Get up on that chair! Do you hear?'—*Texas Siftings*, Oct. 20, 1888.

**WHIFFLE-TREE.**—The whipple-tree, or bar to which the traces of a leader are attached.

Just ten minutes after Ham Cherry was holding up the WHIFFLE-TREE with one hand and driving his team down the lane toward the field on a sharp trot.—*American Humorist*, 1898.

**WHIGS.**—The colonial period of American history knew two parties — *Whigs* and *Tories*—and these in their pre-revolutionary form are hardly entitled to recognition in strictly national politics. They

were merely importations, and men belonged to one party or the other, according to the predilections of their forefathers in the motherland. When, however, the disturbing questions arose which led to the Revolution, party lines became marked for local causes, the *Whigs*, as a general thing, declaring for independence, while the *Tories* remained loyal to the Crown, or, at most, favored passive resistance. After independence was achieved, "Tory" ceased to be recognized as a party name, and was popularly used only as a term of opprobrium. The *Whigs* survived, but shortly divided on the then young State-rights question into "Particularists" and "Strong Government *Whigs*." The former were, to adopt modern phraseology, "State-rights men," while the latter favored centralization, and subsequently adopted the less awkward title of *FEDERALIST* (*q.v.*), and the *Whig* name temporarily disappeared, to be revived in 1820, when it at once commanded a considerable following, but was not strong enough to achieve success until 1848, when it elected General Zachary Taylor to the presidency, defeating the Democrats for the first time in nearly half a century. Their last appearance on the political battle-field was in the campaign of 1852, but there are still living old *Whigs* who fondly cherish the memory of what was once a "grand old party." — *Political Americanisms*.

**WHIP, To.**—To surpass; to outvie, *e.g.*, "To whip all creation" is a favorite Yankee simile. — **WHIP POOR WILL** (*Antrostomus vociferus*). — A common Southern bird with many names, amongst which may be mentioned **CHUCK WILL'S WIDOW** and **BULL BAT** (*q.v.*). Other species sometimes receive these names.

—WHIP-SAWING.—The acceptance of fees or bribes from two opposing persons or parties. It is believed to have originated in the New York State assembly, and is evidently derived from the *whip-saw* of mechanics, which cuts both ways.

**WHISKER** (Cant).—A big lie; equivalent to a "whopper."

**WHISKEY BLOAT.**—A confirmed whiskey tippler. — **WHISKEY JACK** (*Garrulus cristatus*).—The **BLUE JAY.**—**WHISKEY MILL.**—A grog-shop is thus known in the West. — **WHISKEY PLANT,** or **WHISKEY ROOT.**—See the following quotation.

It is what the Indians call Pie-o-ke. It grows in Southern Texas, on the range of sand-hills bordering on the Rio Grande, and in gravelly, sandy soil. The Indians eat it for its exhilarating effect on the system, it producing precisely the same as alcoholic drinks. It is sliced as you would a cucumber, and these small pieces chewed, the juice swallowed, and in about the same time as comfortably tight cocktails would stir the divinity within you this indicates itself; only its effects are what I might term a little more k-a-v-o-r-t-i-n-g, giving rather a wider scope to the imagination and actions.—*New Orleans Picayune*, 1888.

—**WHISKEY RING.**—A ring of whiskey dealers who, through the connivance of Government officials, were enabled to evade the revenue laws, and amass large fortunes. The ring was temporarily broken up in 1875.—*Political Americanisms.* — **WHISKEY SKIN.**—A concocted drink of whiskey, sugar, crushed ice, and mint.

**WHISTLER** or **WHISTLE-WING.**—The **GOLDEN-EYE** (*g.v.*).

**WHITE.**—A slang usage denoting a high meed of praise, *white* being the emblem of "straightness" in a man or thing; of course the epithet is comparative, ideas of

right and wrong being variable quantities.

Put Buck through as bully as you can, pard, for anybody that knowed him will tell you that he was one of the **WHITEST** men that was ever in the mines.—*Mark Twain's The Innocents at Home*, p. 21.

All right; tell them to send along a tenderfoot who's posted on that sort of thing. We want a first-class display. We'll pay all his expenses and use him **WHITE.** He'll have the biggest time he ever had. You come out with him and show him the way, and we'll use you **WHITE** too.—*Detroit Free Press*, September 1, 1888.

—**WHITE CAPS.**—A mysterious organization in Indiana, who take it upon themselves to administer justice to offenders independent of the law. They go at night disguised, and seizing their victim, gag and bind him to a tree while they administer a terrible whipping. Who they are is not known, or if known no one dares to make a complaint against them. They are trying to correct and purify society, a work for which they do not consider the machinery of the law adequate. They are particularly severe against wife-beaters, but a spell ago an offender of that class escaped because the leader of the *white caps* did not show up at the place of rendezvous. He attempted to lick his own wife and got the worst of it, so that he was laid up for a week or more. Another time a common drunkard, who had been notified that he was to have temperance whipped into him, got off because the *caps* were on a big "drunk" themselves. There are a good many reformers of that sort in the world.—**WHITE FISH.**—The **MENHADEN** (*g.v.*). — **WHITE FROST.**—The universal term when speaking of hoar frost.—**WHITE HOUSE.**—The President's official residence at Washington.—**WHITE LEAGUE.**—An organization formed in the South in 1874 to check the growth



of political power among the negroes. — **WHITE LINERS.** — A political party localised in Louisiana. — **WHITE MAN'S FLY.** — An Indian name for the honey-bee. This insect is not indigenous to America, but was imported by the early settlers. — **MEAN WHITE,** or **WHITE TRASH.** — See **POOR WHITES.** — **WHITE - OAK CHEESE.** — A cheese, hard and tough as can well be imagined; a product of skim milk. — **WHITE - TAILED DEER.** — See **BLACK-TAILED DEER.** — **WHITE WALNUT** or **LONG WALNUT** (*Inglus cinerea*). — A beautiful tree with wide-spreading branches. The juice of the fruit, rich in oil, serves as a dye, and hence its popular name of **BUTTERNUT**, which was also applied to Confederate troops dressed in uniforms of homespun cloth which owed its color to the nut. The name *white walnut* is derived from the color of the wood. — **WHITE - WOOD.** — The **TULIP TREE** (*q.v.*).

**WHIT-PLOTTING.** — A Nantucket term for friendly visiting.

**WHOLE CLOTH.** — An expressive usage obtains in reference to this word in which the idea of thoroughness is conveyed. Thus a lie or a truth made out of *whole cloth* is an out-and-out falsehood, or the reverse; in which there is no admixture of truth.

You can say for me that there is no truth whatever in the statement, which was manufactured out of **WHOLE CLOTH.** Not only is the statement untrue in every particular, but there is no foundation for even a rumor of that sort. — *St. Louis Globe Democrat*, April 29, 1888.

This charge against the fair name of Mrs. Langtry is one of the most outrageous, malicious and groundless lies ever manufactured by that vile journal. That the lie is made out of **WHOLE CLOTH** is evident by the fact, that while this alleged banquet was being held I was on my journey to Chicago,

Mrs. Langtry having been ill for some time before I was summoned. — *New York World*, March 5, 1888.

— **WHOLE-FOOTED, WHOLE-HEARTED, and WHOLE-SOULED,** are popular cant terms, used with a profusion and want of discrimination which has utterly destroyed their original meaning. Any devising man, who invites a crowd to "drinks all around," is instantly praised as a *whole-footed* man; and the calculating speculator, who gives a piece of land for a church with a view to the enhanced value of the adjoining lots, which he retains, appears in the newspapers as "a noble, *whole-souled* gentleman, whose liberality will earn him the thanks of his countrymen, and the gratitude of coming generations." — **WHOLE TEAM.** — See **TEAM.**

International courtesy by a distinguished English physician and surgeon. We publish a letter from Dr. Wharton P. Hood. I am sure that if this **WHOLE-SOULED** gentleman should ever visit New York City, he will be extended a right royal welcome by Manhattan Athletic Club. — *Manhattan Athletic Club Chronicle*, 1888.

**WHY, CERTAINLY!** — An Eastern phrase — one of the more delicate American catch-phrases, signifying either acquiescence, or employed as a variant of "Well, really!"

**WHYO.** — See **DEAD-RABBITS.**

**WICOPY.** — The **LEATHERWOOD** (*q.v.*).

**WIDE-AWAKES.** — During the first Lincoln campaign (1860), torch-light processions were as popular as they are now. One of these was ordered by the Republicans of Hartford, Conn.: and some of the participants, clerks in a large dry-goods' establishment, provided themselves with capes and caps of glazed cloth to protect their clothing from the torch-drippings. The

marshall of the occasion, having an eye for uniformity, collected these men and placed them at the head of the line, where they attracted much notice. The idea was at once taken up by *wide-awake* Republicans; all the local clubs were uninformed, other towns and states followed suit, and in a surprisingly short time the Northern States were mustered in the *wide-awake* ranks. The organization and drill was semi-military, and many a soldier, who subsequently fought in the Union cause, thus received his first training. The Democrats caught up the idea, and organized clubs called *LITTLE GIANTS* (*q.v.*), on a similar plan, in honor of their candidate, the Hon. Stephen A. Douglas. These also served as training schools for Northern soldiers. The name *wide-awake* was, as early as 1853, applied to the *KNOW-NOTHINGS* (*q.v.*), and the light-colored soft felt hats, which they were supposed to wear, were termed *wide-awake* hats. — *Political Americanisms*.

**WIFE** (Cant).—A fetter fixed on one leg only.

**WIGGLE, To.**—To wriggle.

Ball is popular with the boys. He is a genial fellow in his relations with men, but as a state senator his record was not such as to commend him to public favor. During the great railroad fight last winter and last spring he *WIGGLED* in and *WIGGLED* out, was here to-day and there to-morrow, and nobody could ever tell what he favored or where he stood. It is certain that he was not an uncompromising friend of the people during that great fight. — *Missouri Republican*, February 16, 1888.

—**WIGGLE-TAIL.**—The larva of the mosquito.

**WIGWAM.**—Primarily an Indian word, meaning a cabin or hut. The Tammany Society of Philadelphia

called its place of meeting a *wigwam* as early as 1789, and during the Harrison campaign (see *LOG CABIN*, etc.), log cabins were used as campaign meeting places under the same name. As early as 1859-60, huge buildings of rough boards were erected for political purposes in large towns, and the practice has been kept up ever since. These, too, are known as *wigwams*.

My native stream—its bosom never  
The Red Man more may see;  
The Pale face rears his *WIGWAM*  
Where our Indian hunters roved;  
His hatchet fells the forest fair  
Our Indian maidens loved.  
—*Bryant's Last of the Red Man*

—See *COUNCIL FIRES*.

**WILD CAT.**—A bank in Michigan, bore a *wild cat* or a panther on its face as a vignette. The bank proved utterly insolvent after having sent out a large number of notes, and for many years afterwards all irresponsible banks, which then abounded, were designated as *wild cat* banks, and their notes, often very curtly and severely, as *wild cats*.

Every State in the Union should rigidly proscribe and prohibit the establishment of the *WILD CAT* and one-horse banking concerns which have produced so much mischief, and brought discredit on all banking institutions. — *New York Sun*.

The term was also applied to all bogus and swindling concerns, such as *WILD CAT MINES*, *WILD CAT WHISKEY*.

There were more mines than miners. True, not ten of these mines were yielding rock worth hauling to a mill, but everybody said, 'Wait till the shaft gets down where the ledge comes in solid, and then you will see!' So nobody was discouraged. These were nearly all *WILD CAT* mines, and wholly worthless, but nobody believed it then. — *Roughing It*.

Those were *WILD CAT* days, and this was a *WILD CAT* broker. Ten minutes later, Mr Tullingworth-Gordon received a notice

which informed him of the fact that he was expected to put up his margin for fifty thousand shares of Snorting Geyser.—*Puck*, r 888.

— **WILD CATTLE.**—A strange breed of *wild cattle* is found in the high hills skirting the Umpqua valley, Oregon. In the mountains, near Riddles and Rosebud, they are probably most plentiful, but they do not venture down in the valley much. They stay on the hills, and get water on the living springs which rise there. For the most part they are concealed in the dense growth of oak and fir in these mountains. There is heavy underbrush, too, so that it is a hard matter to get them. They go in bands of six or eight usually, but at night a herd of forty or fifty get together and lie down in the same yard—that is, they sleep in the same spot, which is usually a secluded place among the trees. The cattle are of all colors, and wilder than deer. It is a hard matter to get a shot at them for the reason that their scent is so keen. A peculiarity about these cattle is that their eyes and horns are jet black. The retina, iris, and the whole apple of the eye are one mass of black. The horns, too, while being black as ink, are long and sharp. Brought to bay, the Oregon *wild cattle* are very wicked fighters.—**WILD LAND.**—Unsettled land. A Western term.—**WILD RICE.**—The *FOLLES AVOINES* (*q.v.*) of the early French settlers.—**WILD TRAIN** or **WILD CAT TRAIN.**—A train not scheduled on the time-table.

It will be remembered at that time the Montreal night express was thrown from the track near Coon's crossing, on the Delaware and Hudson road, by a *WILD CAT* engine that had been turned loose at the Mechanicsville yards by an evil-disposed person.—*Missouri Republican*, Feb. 23, 1888.

A bad collision occurred this morning on the Iowa Central, two miles north of

Hampton. The dispatcher at Marshalltown was at fault, forgetting a *WILD TRAIN* that was running north from Marshalltown.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, March 7, 1888.

**WILLIAMS; BLUE WILLIAMS** (*Texas*).—100 dollar and 50 dollar bills of the Confederate States.

A Texan once told me, with a fierce glitter of satisfaction in his eye, that he had 100,000 dollars in *WILLIAMS* laid up against that day, which was certain to come, when he could exchange it, dollar with dollar, for greenbacks. The poor fellow! I should much prefer a draft for ten cents on the Old Lady of California-street.—*Overland Mail*.

**WILMOT PROVISIO.**—A measure introduced into Congress by David Wilmot, of Pennsylvania, in 1846, absolutely excluding slavery from the new territories then about to be acquired from Mexico. The measure was debated at great length, and finally suffered defeat, but the agitation led to the first formation of the *FREE SOIL PARTY* (*q.v.*).—*Political Americanisms*.

**WIND UP, To.**—To give a quietus to an antagonist; to "settle one's hash."

Once again Madison Square Garden is the scene of a tramping match. It may be the last race that will be held in the old garden; it is so announced, and the announcement may have as much truth in it as that which detailed the fact that John L. Sullivan would act as starter for the men instead of, as is usual with him, *WINDING UP* a man.—*New York World*, May 7, 1888.

—To *WIND UP* ONE'S WORSTED.—To give the last turn of which an undertaking is capable.

**WINERY.**—A distillery for wines.

Juan Gallegos is building a filtering arrangement for the furnishing of pure water for the Gallegos *WINERY*. One hundred tons of gravel will be needed as a part of the material used in the construction of the filter.—*San Francisco Weekly Chronicle*, July 26, 1888.



**WINTER.**—To WINTER KILL.—To be killed by winter frosts.—**WINTER BERRY.**—The ALDER (*q.v.*).—**WINTER CHERRY.**—The GROUND CHERRY.—A recent introduction into American market gardens.

**WIPE OUT, To.**—To kill; to exterminate; to annihilate.

Mexican authorities are taking all possible measures to WIPE OUT Bernal's band of outlaws.—*Missouri Republican*, Feb. 22, 1888.

**WIRE. WIRES.**—The telegraph.—To WIRE.—To send a telegram. All these forms are now colloquial in English commercial circles.—**WIRED-UP.**—Vexed or irritated.—**WIRE-PULLER.**—The unsuspected political manager who causes events to take place, as does the operator of a Punch and Judy show, himself being invisible, and the machinery concealed.

In view of the WIRE-PULLING done last night and early this morning, the result was not a surprise to any of the inside operators.—*Philadelphia Evening Bulletin*, Feb. 23, 1888.

**WISE, To.**—Said of a top when reeling.

**WITNESS TREES.**—Trees used as landmarks.

**WOBALL (Cant).**—A milkman.

**WOLVERINE STATE.**—The State of Michigan.

**WOOD.**—To WOOD UP.—**WOODING PLACE.**—Terms connected with the Mississippi steamer traffic denoting the process of taking on board fresh supplies of fuel. To *wood up* also means to take a drink.—**WOOD LOT.**—See LOT.—**WOOD MEETING.**—A Mormon term for a

CAMP MEETING (*q.v.*).—**WOOD SKIN.**—A canoe; the process of manufacture is thus described:—

To make one of these WOOD SKINS, a large purple heart tree is cut down, and the bark of the requisite length taken off. A wedge-shaped piece is then cut out of the trough-shaped bark from the top downwards, at a distance of three feet or so from both ends on each side, the ends are then raised till the edges of the cuts meet, when holes are pierced on either hand at a distance of six inches from the cut, and numbers of turns of a strong withre are passed through them

**WOODCHUCK.**—The GROUND HOG (*q.v.*).

**WOOL.**—**DYED-IN-THE-WOOL.**—Out-and-out; unflinching partisanship.

Senator Voorhees accompanied a constituent to the post-office department a couple of days ago and urged his appointment for a subordinate position. The postmaster-general received them courteously, and after hearing the senator's statement, turned to the applicant and asked him: 'What are your politics?' 'I'm a **DYED-IN-THE-WOOL** Democrat, sir,' was the prompt reply of the Hoosier office-seeker.—*Critic*, 1888.

—**TO DRAW THE WOOL OVER THE EYES.**—To hoodwink; to "use the pepper box"; to throw dust in the eyes.

You have no idea of the amount of speaking that Congress does every year. Many of these speeches are, however, never delivered at all, and the congressman rises and says, 'Mr. Speaker,' and then asks leave to print his remarks. He puts in a long harangue, in which he denounces the opposite party, and tries to DRAW THE WOOL OVER THE EYES of his constituents. He gets several thousand extra copies printed at cost price or less, and distributes them all over his district, and the people think that he has really uttered these words on the floor, while the members with big eyes and open mouths listened to them!—*Florida Times Union*, February 7, 1888.

—**ALL WOOL AND A YARD WIDE.**—A Yankee simile for thoroughgoing genuineness.—**WOOLLY HEADS.**—(1) Negroes; and (2) Formerly applied to anti-slavery politicians.

**WORKED.**—WORKED FOR ALL IT WAS  
**WORTH.**—Manipulated to the best  
 advantage.

**WORM FENCE.**—A VIRGINIA FENCE  
 (*q.v.*).

**WORRIMENT.**—Worry; trouble;  
 anxiety. A factitious useless word.

James McLeer is one of the notable  
 citizens of Brooklyn, and the consideration  
 of his name will give the Senate more  
**WORRIMENT** than anything of recent date.—  
*New York World*, February 14, 1888.

— **WORRISOME.**—Worrying;  
 bothersome.

**WORRY, TO.**—To take a drink.

**WRAPPERS.**—Leggings.

**WRATH.**—LIKE ALL **WRATH.** — A  
 Southern simile for angry, violent,  
 or vehement; and also generally  
 employed to express great emphasis.  
 — **WRATHING.**—Very **WROTH.**

**WRECKERS.**—A band of Baltimore  
 roughs.

**WUNST.**—A vulgarism for "once." So  
 also **WUNCT.**

In a dental office not one thousand miles  
 away the following colloquy occurred: 'Has  
 your tooth ever ached?' 'Oh, it just hurted  
 me a little wunct or twict.' 'Did it ever  
 ache?' 'It pained me a bit, but shure I  
 could stand it.' 'Pat, do you know what  
 toothache is?' 'Indade, an' I do, sor.' 'Has  
 your tooth ever ached?' 'Well, thin, it did.  
 It kept me awake the night, bad luck to it.'  
 'Does it ache now?' 'An' if it didn't would  
 I be here?'—*Nantucket Inquirer*, 1888.





ANK.—(1) A jerk.—  
To YANK, to jerk.

Countryman (to dentist)—'I wouldn't pay nothin' extra fer gas. Jest YANK her out if it does hurt.' Dentist—'You are plucky, sir. Let me see the tooth.' Countryman

—'Oh, 'taint me that's got the toothache; it's my wife. She'll be here in a minute.'

—*New York Sun*, 1888.

—(2) A contraction of YANKEE.

—YANKEE.—The best authorities on the subject now agree upon the derivation of this term from the imperfect effort made by the Northern Indians to pronounce the word "English." The Rev. Mr. Heckewelder, than whom few men have been more thoroughly at home in Indian speech and Indian character, distinctly states, that they pronounced it Yengees, and knew how to distinguish them by their dress and personal appearance, and that they were considered as less cruel than the Virginians or Long-knives.

—YANKEEDOM.—New England.

—YANKEE DOODLE.—See the following:—

In the summer of 1775, the British army, under command of Abercrombie, lay encamped on the east bank of the Hudson River, a little south of the City of Albany, awaiting reinforcements of militia from the Eastern States, previous to marching on Ticonderoga. During the month of June, these raw levies poured into camp, company after company, each man differently armed, equipped, and accoutred from his neighbor, and the whole presenting such a spectacle as was never equalled, unless by the celebrated regiment of merry Jack Falstaff. Their *outré* appearance furnished great amusement

to the British officers. One Dr. Shamburg, an English surgeon, composed the tune of 'YANKEE DOODLE,' and arranged it to words, which were gravely dedicated to the new recruits. The joke took, and the tune has come down to this day.

YANKEE NOTIONS.—A class of minor conveniences known as *Yankee notions*.—See NOTIONS.

YARBS.—A New England pronunciation and corruption of HERBS.

Clerk Rendich, of Judge Walsh's Court, is a pretty well informed man, but he knows nothing of the properties of YARBS and simples. He had a cold a few days ago, and some one prescribed Iceland moss as a remedy.—*Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, 1888.

YARD.—See GARDEN.

YAVUM (Cant).—Bread and milk.

YELLOW.—YELLOW BEHIND THE GILLS.

—Said of one of whom FEVER'N 'AGER (*q.v.*) has laid tight hold.—

YELLOW COVER.—A slang term for a note of dismissal from Government employ. In the public offices yellow-tinted envelopes are largely used. — YELLOW JACK. — The popular name for yellow fever.

While the coast line from Tampico to Bagdad is seldom scourged by vomito, the usual calenturas and malarial fevers prevail during the wet months, but are seldom fatal. The natives are almost proof against them, and to most foreigners they may be considered merely the common and necessary process of acclimation. Cuidad Victoria has never been visited by either vomito or YELLOW JACK, and its citizens, therefore, consider it the healthiest, as it is certainly



one of the prettiest places, on the planet.—*Troy Daily Times*, February 4, 1883.

—YELLOW PUCCOON.—See PUCCOON.

YOUNG HICKORY.—Martin Van Buren was so called because the political mantle of "Old Hickory" (Jackson) was said to have fallen upon his shoulders.



AMBO.—See SAMBO.

ZENITH CITY OF THE  
UNSALTED SEAS.—  
—Duluth.

Hon. Proctor Knott, late governor of Kentucky, is not only an able and humorous speaker, but a sound financier and man of great experience in public affairs. Born August 29, 1830, at Lebanon, Ky., he became a lawyer at the age of twenty-one, and located in Missouri, where he was elected a member of the legislature, and afterward appointed Attorney-General of the State. In 1862 he returned to Kentucky, and in 1867 was elected to Congress by a very large majority. He soon took high rank as a working member of the Committees on Finance and Judiciary, and early in 1871 blazed upon the country as a great humorist in his brilliant speech upon Duluth, which he christened the ZENITH CITY OF THE UNSALTED SEAS.—*American Humorist*, 1888.

ZIT, TO.—An onomatopoetic verb, manufactured to describe vocally the peculiar hissing of bullets when striking water.

ZNEES (Cant).—Ice; snow; frost.

ZODIAC (Cant).—The top card in the box at faro. More generally corrupted into SODA.

ZOMBI.—A phantom or ghost.

ZOUCHER (Cant).—A slovenly fellow.

ZUCKE (Cant).—An old prostitute.









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